

TOP-NOTCH

No. 8 COMICS

SEPT.

MYSTERY-ACTION-DETECTIVE

THE MARVEL OF 1940

ROY...

The SUPER-BOY!



SENSATIONAL
NEW FEATURE
THE **FIREFLY**

EDMUND M.
ASHZ JR.



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM

PECK BROTHERS

Announce

LITTLE CHIEF

Boys

IF YOU ACT FAST—

LEMONWOOD

5 ft. BOW and
6-24 in. ARROWS

\$ 4.85

Special Introductory Price
Regular Retail Value \$7.98

During this special sale you get for the first time an American Brave's 5 ft. flat style, lemonwood bow and set of six arrows for the amazing low price of \$4.85.
Bow is first quality, straight grained Cuban lemonwood, air dried and thoroughly seasoned. Grain is carefully filtered and stave is roughed out, irregulars rejected. Skillfully filtered so important in getting higher scores on the range, more beautiful finished. Selected quality hemp string.
Built up leather grip, celluloid edging. Sanded by hand, game in the woods.
Six 24 in. birch arrows with brass parallel piles, two-color cresting. Three feathers, odd color cock feather, precision mounted for flawless flight. 24 in. target and shooting instructions. Available up to 28 lbs. pull.
Price complete during this limited sale, \$4.85.
If you wish you can send \$1 and pay balance on delivery.

AMERICAN BRAVE, Illustrated
Archery Set, \$4.85

LITTLE MAN
Archery Set, \$4.35

ALL-AMERICAN
Archery Set, \$7.85
FOR ADULTS



LEATHER FINGER GUARD 35c



Indoor
ARCHERY SET

HICKORY BOW
Rubber-Cup Arrows
24-in. Tripod Target

\$2.95

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

Just the set for beginners— youngsters—who some day will be top-notchers in this fascinating sport.

After you practice a little get Dad and Mom to test their skill against you. Target sets up in the living room, recreation room, garage or on the lawn.

Three legs set in sockets support the target. Length: Bow 40 in., arrows 19 in. Red, white and blue target.

Just write in the margin "I want a Little Chief Archery Set" and mail the coupon. Be sure you give your age, etc.

LEATHER ARM GUARD 55c

ALL-AMERICAN ARCHERY SET
5 1/2 ft. lemonwood flat style bow with built up handle, securely glued, dowelled and rimmed. Spiral wound catkin grip, celluloid trim, genuine hand made self-nocked. Six Pratt Oxford cedar arrows, bow is available up to 45 lb. pull. Price \$7.85.
LITTLE MAN ARCHERY SET
This set is the same as the American Brave illustrated and described above, except that the bow is 4 1/2 ft. and arrows, 21 in. Makes an ideal set for beginners both boys and girls. Price \$4.35.
All prices F.O.B. Mt. Carmel, Conn.

CUT OUT AND MAIL TODAY
2965 WHITNEY AVENUE,
MT. CARMEL, CONN.

PECK BROTHERS

- Send Archery Set marked. Amount enclosed
- American Brave \$4.85
 - Little Man \$4.35
 - All-American \$7.85
 - Pratin Neck 65c extra
 - Finger Guard 35c
 - Arm Guard 55c
 - Tripod Target \$1.45


MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Give your Height, _____
Reach and _____
Age _____

Name _____
Address _____

THE WIZARD

THE MAN WITH THE SUPER-BRAIN
AND ROY THE SUPER BOY



INTRODUCING
IN THIS ISSUE THE
CHARACTER EXTRAOR-
DINARY, ROY THE SUPER-
BOY, WHOM THE WIZ-
ARD TAKES UNDER
HIS WING!

WITH HIS SUPER BRAIN AND PHOTO-
GRAPHIC MIND, THE WIZARD IS ABLE
TO VISUALIZE FAR AWAY HAPPENINGS.
WITH THESE MENTAL POWERS, AND
HIS SUPER STRENGTH HE FIGHTS
AGAINST THE GANGSTER FORCES
THAT TERRORIZE SOCIETY!

ONE DAY, A STARTLING EX-
POSE HITS THE HEADLINES!

MAYOR BEADLE POSITIVELY
TIED UP WITH BOSS
SCHULTZ' CRIME RING

WITH ANOTHER
ELECTION IN
THE OFFING,
WE HAVE
UNEARTHED
EVIDENCE
THAT OUR
MAYOR IS

A STOUGE FOR
THE VICE LORD,
BENNY SCHULTZ!
DON'T VOTE
FOR BEADLE,
ETC...ETC...
CITIZENS

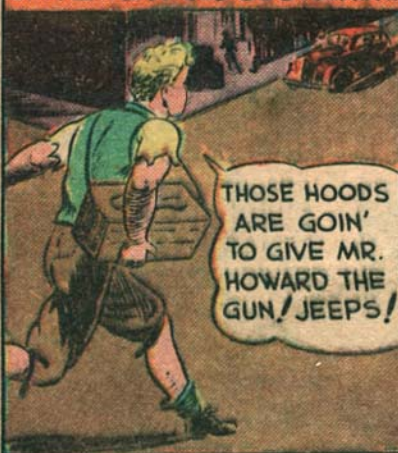
THIS STORY
WILL RUIN
US, SCHULTZ!

KEEP YOUR SHIRT
ON, BEADLE. WE'LL
TAKE CARE OF
THE PUBLISHER!

IN THE HOME OF MAYOR
BEADLE!.....

THAT NIGHT, AS JOHN HOW-
ARD, PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY
CITIZEN, ENTERS HIS HOME....

A CAR RUSHES UP UNDER THE EYES OF A 12 YEAR OLD BOOTBLACK!



THOSE HOODS ARE GOIN' TO GIVE MR. HOWARD THE GUN! JEEPS!



LOOK OUT!

THE BOY'S HEROIC EFFORTS ARE OF NO AVAIL!



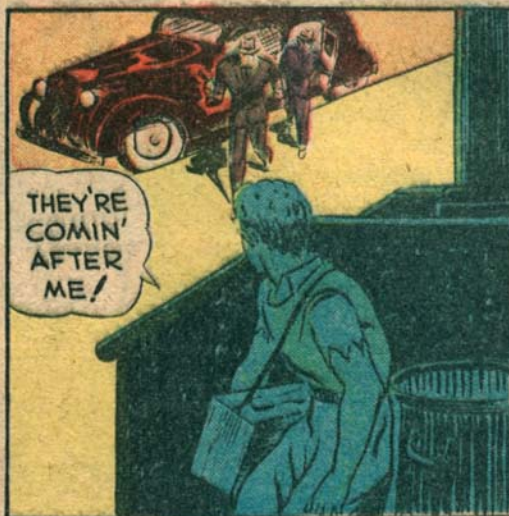
THEY GOT HIM!
THE DIRTY RATS!

INSIDE THE GANGSTERS CAR!



THAT BRAT SEEN US. WE BETTER RUB HIM OUT ALSO!

YEAH! LET'S GO BACK AND GET HIM!



THEY'RE COMIN' AFTER ME!



I WON'T BE SUCH AN EASY MARK! MY BACK AIN'T TURNED!



THE KILLERS SEND A SPRAY OF DEATH AT THE FEARLESS YOUNGSTER!

GET HIM OUT FROM BEHIND THAT GARBAGE CAN!



I GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' FAST!



WATCH OUT, IT'S....



JUST THEN, BLANE WHITNEY DUCKS INTO A DARKENED DOORWAY HAPPENS UPON THE SCENE!

IT'S AMAZING. HE'S A MERE CHILD!

OOF!



THIS CALLS FOR THE WIZARD!



I LOST ME GUN, BUT THIS'LL SETTLE YOUR HASH!



IT'S A GOOD THING I DRANK LOTS OF MILK!



ONE KILLED, FINALLY GETS AT THE BOY WITH A MACHINE-GUN!

YOU BLANKETY BLANK BRAT! AND NOW YOU GET YOURS!



BUT UNEXPECTED HELP ARRIVES!

JUST A MINUTE, MISTER!

ULP!



THE WIZARD!

HELP!



LETS SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A FELLOW YOUR OWN SIZE!

ATTA BOY, WIZARD! GIVE IT TO 'EM GOOD!



THE KILLERS MAKE A BREAK!

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY. THEY KILLED MR. HOWARD!

DON'T WORRY! I WON'T!



NOW I'LL REALLY START TO CLEAN UP!



WOW! LOOK AT 'EM GO!

PROBABLY THE FIRST BATH THEY'VE HAD IN MONTHS!



THE POLICE ARRIVE AND SEE HOWARD'S CORPSE!

HOLY MACKEREL! THESE GUYS RUBBED OUT JOHN HOWARD!

THEY'LL GET THE HOT SEAT FOR THIS!



JOHN HOWARD, HMM! HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR CLEAN GOVERNMENT!

YEAH! AND HE WUZ ALWAYS SWELL TO US BOOTBLACKS, TOO!

MY NAME'S ROY. I'M AN ORPHAN... GEE! THE WIZARD! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D REALLY TALK TO YOU SOME DAY!

WELL, I KIND OF ADMIRE YOU MYSELF! HOW ABOUT US GETTING TOGETHER!

THAT'D BE KEEN AND CAN I HAVE A UNIFORM LIKE YOURS TOO?

MAYBE.... COME TO MY FRIEND BLANE WHITNEY'S GYMNASIUM TOMORROW. HERE'S THE ADDRESS!

NEXT DAY IN JANE'S HOUSE...

WELL JANE, I'VE FINALLY TAKEN YOUR ADVICE SERIOUSLY. I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING USEFUL!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BLANE?

I'VE JUST BOUGHT THE LATE JOHN HOWARD'S NEWSPAPER. I'M CONTINUING HIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST MAYOR BEADLE'S CROOKED POLITICS.

THAT'S WONDERFUL, BLANE..... AND I'M GOING TO HELP YOU!

ROY KEEPS HIS APPOINTMENT.....

JUPITER! THIS GYM LOOKS LIKE A...A CASTLE!

HELLO, ROY! BEEN WAITING LONG?

GEE WHIZZ!

SEEING YOU STAND UP AGAINST THOSE THUGS MADE ME REALIZE THAT YOU ARE THE IDEAL BOY TO TRAIN FOR THE DEFENSE OF AMERICANISM. ARE YOU WILLING?

YOU BET!

THE WIZARD BEGINS AN INTENSIVE TRAINING CAMPAIGN FOR HIS YOUNG PRODIGY!

THIS JIU-JITSU IS KEEN STUFF!

GOOD WORK, ROY!

IF YOU EVER HIT A THUG THAT HARD... YOU'LL KILL HIM!

WHEE! I FEEL LIKE A BIRD!

NOW FOR THE LAST THING, ROY... SWEAR ON YOUR HONOR AS AN AMERICAN THAT YOU'LL DEVOTE YOUR LIFE TO UPHOLDING THE RIGHT AND PROTECTING THE WEAK FROM THE UNJUST.. AND SWEAR THAT YOU'LL CARRY MY SECRET-THAT BLANE WHITNEY IS THE WIZARD - TO YOUR GRAVE!

NOW YOUR PHYSICAL POWERS ARE AS THAT OF TEN MEN.. YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING I CAN, EXCEPT HAVE A PHOTOGRAPHIC VISION!

SAY, YOU'RE AS HANDY AT THOSE THINGS AS A MONKEY!

GOSH! YOU.. BLANE... YOU'RE THE WIZARD... YES! I SWEAR IT!

JIMINY! HAVE ONE FOR ME NOW, PLEASE WIZARD!

THE WIZARD'S SUPER BRAIN SEES.....

AS SOON AS HE CROSSES THE STREET, LET HIM HAVE IT!

ALL RIGHT.... GOOD HEAVENS, I HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE!

THE WIZARD HURTLES TOWARD THE SCENE OF THE INTENDED MURDER!

THAT FELLOW IS JAMES REAGAN, BEADLE'S RIVAL FOR MAYOR. I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM!

THE SUPER BOY IS NOT TO BE LEFT IN THE LURCH!



WITH PERFECT TIMING AND BODY CONTROL, ROY HURLS HIS FIGURE INTO THE TELEPHONE WIRES BELOW!



THERE HE GOES! HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!



JUST AS THE CAR IS ABOUT TO STRIKE.....



BUT THE SUPER BOY FLASHES IN WITH A FLYING TACKLE!



ROY JOINS THE WIZARD!



THE THUGS ARE SOON SUBDUED!

COME ON, ROY!
THE POLICE
CAN HANDLE
THEM FROM
HERE ON!



THE POLICE SOON ROUND UP THE KILLERS!

THEY TRIED
TO MURDER
ME. I'LL
PRESS
CHARGES!

OKAY,
MR.
REAGAN!



LATER IN BLANE'S OFFICE!

AND HERE IS
DOCUMENTARY EV-
IDENCE OF BEADLE'S
CROOKEDNESS!

HELLO, JANE!
WHAT'S UP?



WHILE YOU TWO
YOUNGSTERS HAVE
BEEN PLAYING AROUND,
I'VE BEEN CON-
TINUING THE
BEADLE
EXPOSE!

STRANGE! BUT
YOU TWO BEAR
A GREAT RE-
SEMBLANCE TO
THE ONES WHO
RESCUED ME!



HA, HA! BLANE
WHITNEY THE
WIZARD!

I'M AFRAID
YOU
FLATTER
ME!

YES, I
GUESS I
WAS
MISTAKEN!



THE NEXT DAY JANE'S EXPOSE HITS THE STREETS.

IF THIS IS TRUE,
THE POLITICAL
SITUATION IS
GHASTLY!

I'M NOT
VOTING
FOR
BEADLE!

EXTRA!



IN THE MAYOR'S HOME!

IF THIS KEEPS UP,
WE'RE RUINED!

DON'T WORRY! IT WON'T. I'M
TAKING PERSONAL CARE OF THIS!



BUT UNKNOWN TO SCHULTZ, HIS EVERY MOVE IS SEEN THROUGH THE REMARKABLE SUPER BRAIN OF THE WIZARD!

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING WE DO, BOSS?

SOMEONE'S TIPPING OFF OUR MOVES TO THE WIZARD. SO MY PLANS STAY IN MY HAT!

OHO, SCHULTZ IS FOXY!

HERE'S YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT, ROY. KEEP YOUR EYE ON JANE. BUT KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE!

YOU BET I'LL DO IT!

THAT NIGHT!

GEE, THIS ISN'T AS MUCH FUN AS I THOUGHT! I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING JANE ALL DAY, AND NOTHIN'S HAPPENED. GUESS I'LL GO HOME NOW. SHE'S WORKIN' LATE IN THE OFFICE!



JUPITER! THAT'S SCHULTZ AND HIS GANG!



I'M TIRED! I'LL FINISH UP THIS BEADLE STORY AND GO HOME!

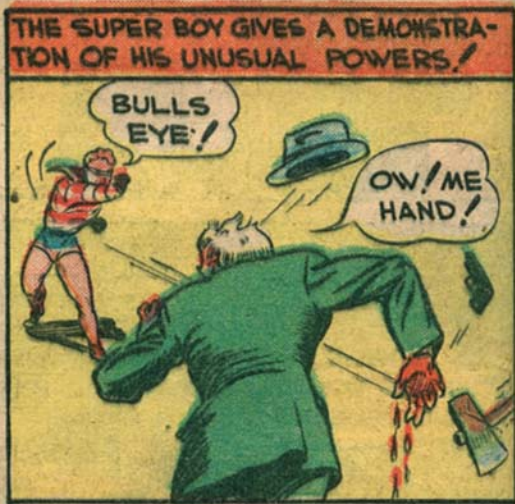
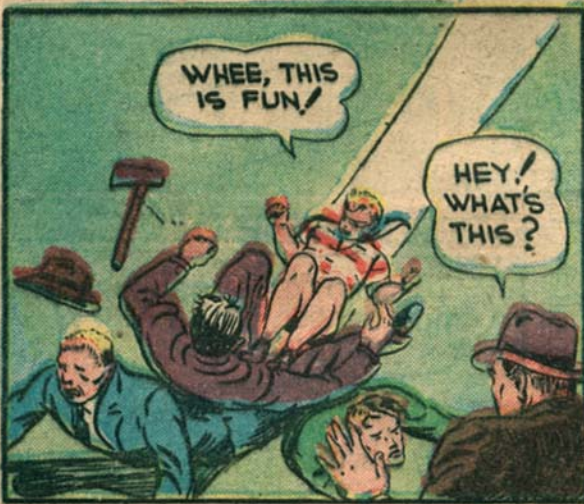


WHAT'S YER HURRY, SISTER?

SCHULTZ! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



I MISSED YESTERDAY'S ADVICE TO THE LOVELORN COLUMN. TAKE HER TO THE PRESS ROOM!



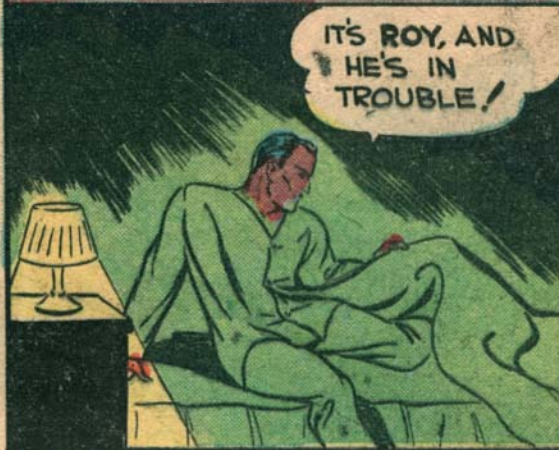
BUT THE BULLET MERELY GRAZED THE SUPER BOYS SCALP!



WIZARD, HELP!

BLEAT YOUR LUNGS OUT, YOU BRAT. NO ONE'S GOIN' TO HEAR YOU!

BUT SCHULTZ IS MISTAKEN. BLANE'S SUPER SENSITIVE BRAIN PICKS UP ROY'S CRY!



IT'S ROY, AND HE'S IN TROUBLE!

HIS SUPER BRAIN IMMEDIATELY VISUALIZES A GRIM SCENE!



IF THOSE MURDERERS HARM THEM, I'LL.....



NOT A SECOND TOO SOON!

CLAM UP! YOU'RE NEXT!

STOP!

THEY'RE GOING TO THROW THEM BOTH INTO THE PRESS MACHINE!



HELP!

IN YOU GO—AND GOOD RIDDANCE!

A SWIFT SECOND BEFORE JANE LANDS.....



NOT BAD ON THE PICK-UP, EH JANE?

THE WIZARD, THANK HEAVENS!

TWISTING UPWARD, HE CLUTCHES THE CATWALK EDGE!



MADE IT!

SCHULTZ KICKS VICIOUSLY AT THE WIZARD'S FINGERS!

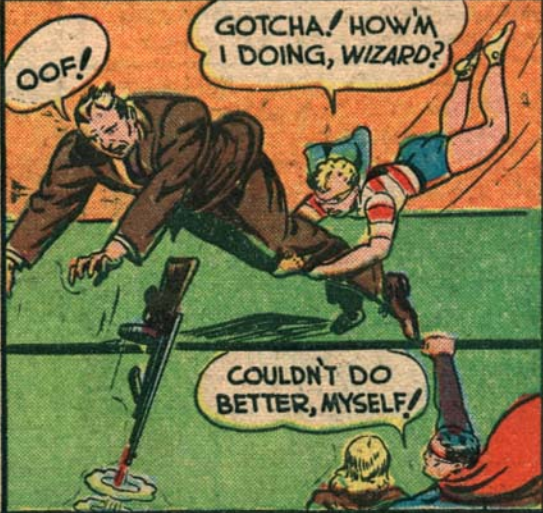


GREAT GHOSTS! I HAVEN'T GOT A FIRM HOLD, AND IF I FALL, JANE IS FINISHED!

BUT NOW THE SUPER-BOY GOES INTO ACTION!



**THE WIZARD'S IN TROUBLE!
I GOTTA HELP HIM!**



GOTCHA! HOW'M I DOING, WIZARD?

OOF!

COULDN'T DO BETTER, MYSELF!

SCHULTZ HURTTLES INTO THE PRINTING PRESS..... AND TO HIS DOOM!



**AAGH!
HEL...L...L...L...**

SCHULTZ'S RATS DESERT THE SINKING SHIP!



I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!

THEY GOT THE BOSS!

LET THEM GO, ... THEY'RE ONLY SMALLFRY! THE POLICE WILL ROUND THEM UP LATER!



N JUST WHEN WE WERE HAVIN' SOME FUN!

THEIR IMMEDIATE TASK ACCOMPLISHED, THE WIZARD AND THE SUPER BOY SPEED OFF!



BUT WAIT...

**SAVE THE THANKS!.....
JUST EXPOSE THE REST
OF THOSE VERMIN THAT RUN
THIS CITY!**

**WHÉE! WE'RE
SOME GANG-
BUSTERS, HUH,
WIZARD?**

NEXT DAY, JANE POUNDS OUT A FULL EXPOSE!



**HEY JANE, WE JUST FISHED OUT
SCHULTZ'S MANGLED CORPSE
FROM THE PRESS
MACHINE!.....
WHAT A
SIGHT!**

**HE'S NOT HALF
AS MANGLED
AS BEADLE'S GOING TO BE WHEN
THIS STORY HITS
THE STREET.**

LATER, EVERY POLICE MAN IN THE CITY RECEIVES STARTLING ORDERS!



SCHULTZ'S WHOLE ORGANIZATION IS BLOWN WIDE OPEN. THE D.A. WANTS EVERYONE OF HIS THUGS ROUNDED UP AT THE ELECTION POLLS!
IT'S A PLEASURE!

MEANWHILE STRONG ARM MEN, UNAWARE OF THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUE OPERATING.



JUST TRY NOT VOTING FOR BEADLE, AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
Y..YES!
LISTEN MUG, VOTE FOR BEADLE, GET ME?
BOARD OF ELECT...
BOARD OF ELECT...

THE POLICE SWEEP DOWN ON THE STRONG ARM THUGS AT EVERY POLL STATION IN THE CITY!

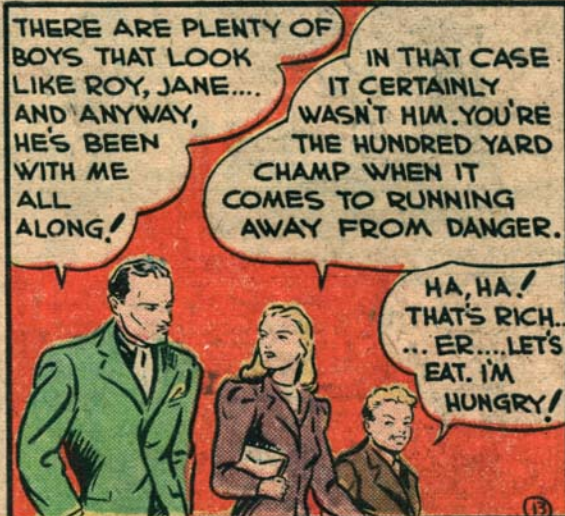


ROUND UP THOSE RATS!... AND DON'T BE TOO GENTLE!
YOU CANT DO THIS TO US. BEADLE'LL BREAK YOU FOR THIS!
NOT BEFORE I BREAK YOU IN TWO, IF YOU KEEP YAPPING!

DAYS LATER, BLANE CONGRATULATES JANE!



GREAT WORK, JANE. THAT STORY OF YOURS SURE WRECKED THE BEADLE MACHINE! HE LOST THE ELECTION BY A LANDSLIDE!
NO THANKS TO YOU! IT WAS THE WIZARD AND...
...SAY, THAT BOY WITH HIM LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU, ROY!
ER... AH... GEE, THAT IS...



THERE ARE PLENTY OF BOYS THAT LOOK LIKE ROY, JANE... AND ANYWAY, HE'S BEEN WITH ME ALL ALONG!
IN THAT CASE IT CERTAINLY WASN'T HIM. YOU'RE THE HUNDRED YARD CHAMP WHEN IT COMES TO RUNNING AWAY FROM DANGER.
HA, HA! THAT'S RICH... ER... LET'S EAT. I'M HUNGRY!

THE WIZARD FIGHTS ALONE NO LONGER! NOW SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE MAN WITH THE SUPER BRAIN IS ROY, THE SUPER BOY, THE MOST ASTOUNDING YOUTH IN ALL HISTORY! TOGETHER THESE TWO FIGHT ALL EVIL... BUT THEIR TASK IS NOT ALWAYS EASY... AS, FOR INSTANCE, IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH COMICS, WHEN THEY FACE THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK OF THEIR ENTIRE CAREER.... DON'T MISS IT!

THE FIREFLY

ENEMY OF CRIME!



MOST OF US HAVE STRANGE UNACCOUNTABLE AMBITIONS WHICH OFTEN GROW UP WITH US. IN HIS YOUTH HARLEY HUDSON HAD JUST SUCH A DRIVING OBSESSION - TO BE A CRIME FIGHTER WHEN HE GREW OLDER. TO THIS END, HE DEVOTED EVERY YEAR OF HIS LIFE TO EQUIP HIMSELF FOR HIS MANHOOD JOB - WE NOW PICK HIM UP AS A RESEARCH SCIENTIST, A FEW YEARS AFTER HIS GRADUATION FROM COLLEGE WHERE HE HAD MAJORED IN BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY!



WE FIND HARLEY IN HIS LABORATORY, IN THE MIDDLE-WEST.

IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT INSECTS IN PROPORTION TO THEIR SIZE ARE INFINITELY STRONGER THAN HUMAN BEINGS...

THE INSIGNIFICANT ANT CAN LIFT MANY TIMES ITS OWN WEIGHT.



THEIR STRENGTH LIES IN THEIR WONDERFUL MUSCULAR COORDINATION—AND NOW AFTER 2 YEARS OF RESEARCH AND STUDY... I TOO, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MASTER THE MUSCULAR FUNCTIONS OF MY OWN BODY.



NO OTHER MAN WOULD ATTEMPT TO UPROOT A TREE!



LIKE THE GRASSHOPPER I CAN LEAP GREAT DISTANCES!



EVERY OUNCE OF MY ENERGY IS BROUGHT INTO FULL PLAY!



THE SAME PRINCIPLE MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO STAY UNDER WATER FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME!



NOW I AM READY!



AND NOW TO START MY CRUSADE AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD—BUT I MUST HAVE A DISGUISE



JUST THEN A BOLT OF LIGHTNING STRIKES, PLUNGING THE LABORATORY INTO DARKNESS—



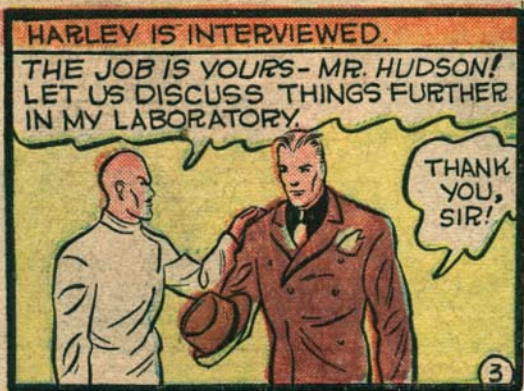
FATE TAKES A HAND IN HARLEY'S DECISION.

MY! FIREFLIES!



THAT'S WHAT I'LL BE... A FIREFLY! LIGHTING UP THE DARKNESS THAT SHROUDS THE UNDERWORLD!



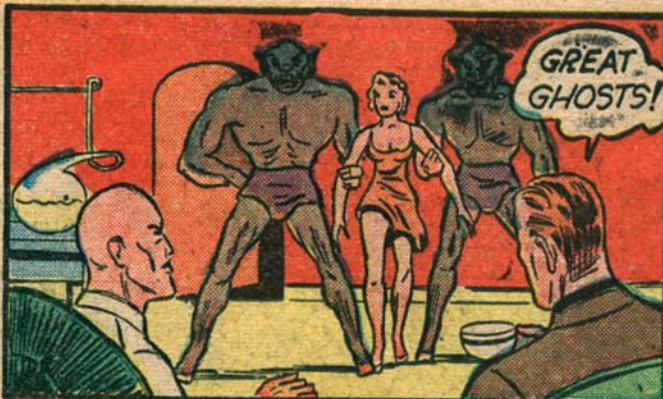


SUDDENLY - -

HELP!

WHAT WAS THAT?

YOU SHALL SEE-BRING HER IN, SLAVES!



THEY'RE NOT HUMAN!

THEY ONCE WERE-MY FRIEND-JUST AS YOU ARE-BUT THEY ARE NOW MY SLAVES!



I INSERTED MECHANICAL BRAINS INTO THEM-BUT AS YOU SEE- THEY PROVED TO BE BAD EXPERIMENTS-MANY HAVE DIED... BUT I SHALL NOT FAIL THIS TIME!



IF THE EXPERIMENT IS SUCCESSFUL, YOU AND THIS GIRL WILL BE THE FIRST OF MY MASTER-RACE. I SHALL THEN CREATE A NATION OF MORE SPECIMENS, ALL SUBSERVIENT TO MY WILL. WE SHALL CONQUER THE EARTH!



WHY-YOU DIRTY-WH-WH-WHY-I CAN'T MOVE!

DON'T TRY-YOUR TEA WAS DRUGGED.

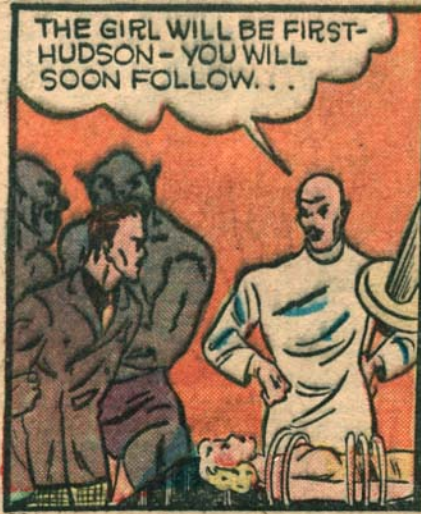


YOUR MUSCLES ARE COMPLETELY PARALYZED ALTHOUGH YOUR BRAIN IS STILL ACTIVE-WE CAN NOW PROCEED WITH THE EXPERIMENT.



HARLEY AND THE GIRL ARE TAKEN INTO THE OPERATING ROOM.





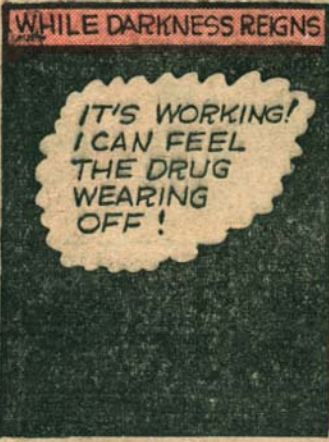
THE GIRL WILL BE FIRST-HUDSON - YOU WILL SOON FOLLOW...



IF ONLY MY MUSCULAR CO-ORDINATION WILL WORK - MAYBE I CAN OVERCOME THE DRUG



THE OPERATION SHALL COMMENCE - OUT WITH THE LIGHTS!



WHILE DARKNESS REIGNS

IT'S WORKING! I CAN FEEL THE DRUG WEARING OFF!



HARLEY'S STRENGTH RETURNS AND HE WRENCHES HIMSELF FREE.

OoF! HE'S LOOSE! LIGHTS QUICK!

I'VE GOT TO SHED MY CLOTHES!



BUT BEFORE THE LIGHTS GO ON THE DARKNESS GLOWS WITH EERIE LIGHT AND THE FIREFLY APPEARS!

GREAT SATAN! WHAT IS THIS?



KILL HIM SLAVES!



MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO TRY IT PERSONALLY, PROFESSOR.



BUT AS A TREMENDOUS LEAP CARRIES HIM TO HIS ASSAILANT-ANOTHER GREEN MAN APPEARS FIRING FROM BELOW.

C'MON YOU SNIPER-LET'S GO FOR A RIDE



- THE FIREFLY HEAVES HIS PRISONER AT THE OTHER GREEN MAN BELOW.



BUT THE MAD PROFESSOR HAS ONE MORE TRICK!





I THINK THIS IS THE WAY OUT!

GREAT HEAVENS! LOOK!



NOT A VERY HANDSOME LOOKING SPECIMEN!

OH!

KILL!



AAARRR GRR

HELP!!

?



YOU'LL COME IN HANDY AS A BASEBALL, PROFESSOR!



THE TERRIFIC IMPACT STUNS THE MONSTER FORCING HIM TO DROP THE GIRL-

STRIKE!



HMM! I THINK YOU'VE GOT A CAVITY IN YOUR TOOTH!



HERE, I'LL PULL IT OUT FOR YOU!

AARRK!



A TEN STORY DROP SHOULD KILL EVEN A MONSTER LIKE YOU!



HOW DID YOU EVER GET MIXED UP IN THIS?

I'M A REPORTER- THE ENTIRE POLICE FORCE IS SEARCHING FOR THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE DISAPPEARANCES



THAT AD SOUNDED LIKE A GOOD LEAD SO I ANSWERED IT ON A HUNCH

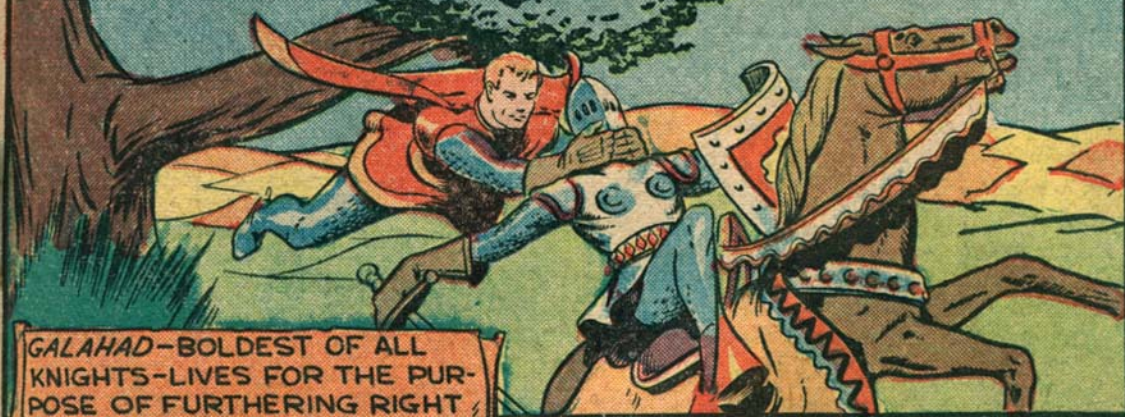
WELL, HE'LL NEVER MURDER ANYONE AGAIN.



GOOD LORD- H-HE'S GONE!

HAS THE MAD PROFESSOR ESCAPED? WILL THE FIREFLY PREVENT HIM FROM RUNNING AMUCK AND COMMITTING FURTHER GHASTLY CRIMES? THE NEXT ISSUE OF **TOP-NOTCH COMICS** WILL SUPPLY THE ANSWERS TO THESE GRIPPING QUESTIONS! RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW!

GALAHAD



GALAHAD—BOLDEST OF ALL KNIGHTS—LIVES FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURTHERING RIGHT AND JUSTICE...



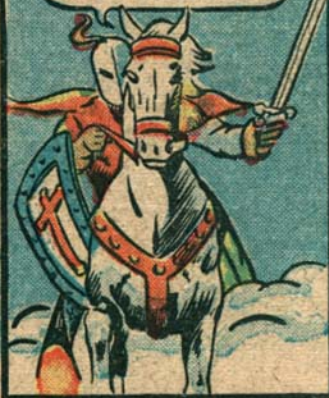
WHAT HAS BEFALLEN, QUEEN GUINIVERE?

ONE DAY, GALAHAD RETURNS TO CAMELOT...

KING ARTHUR HAS GONE OUT TO BATTLE THE INVADING KING OF IRELAND.. BUT HIS TROOPS ARE SADLY DEPLETED!



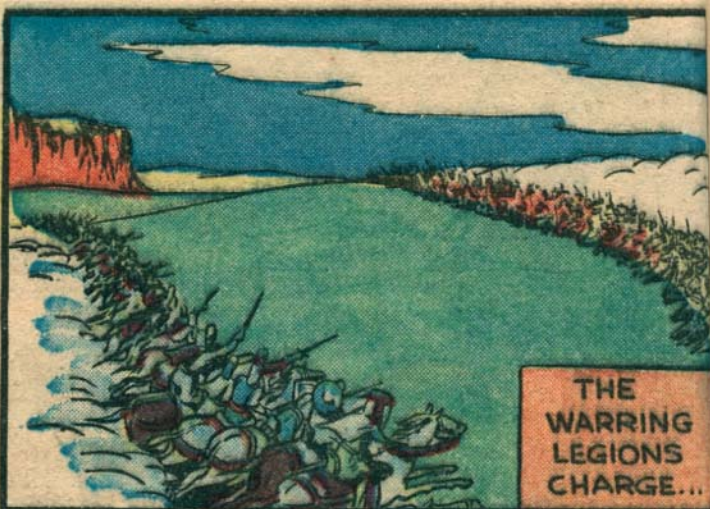
I GO TO JOIN MY KING!



MEANWHILE, ARTHUR MARCHES AGAINST THE INVADERS..

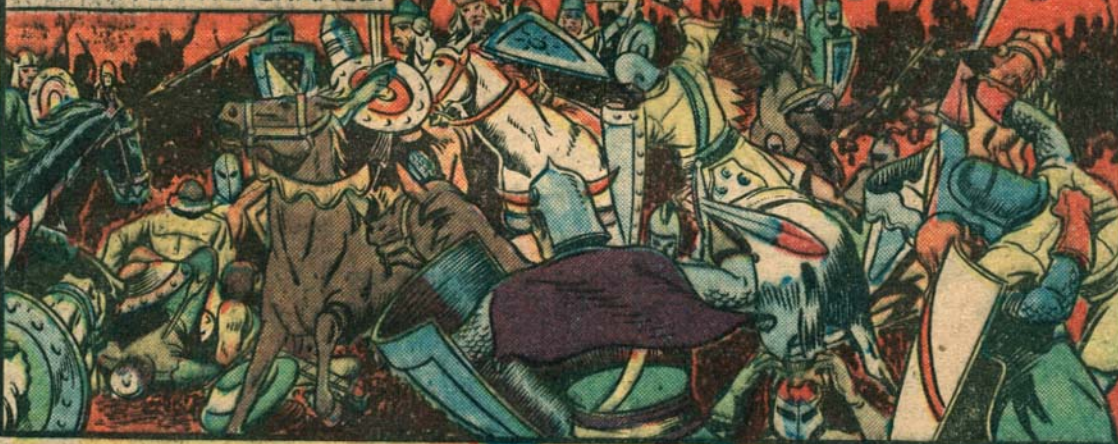
HALT! METHINKS I SEE THE ENEMY COMING..

I SEE THE PENNANTS OF THE IRISH... AND THE DANES! WE ARE OUT-NUMBERED, BUT WE SHALL DIE FIGHTING!



THE WARRING LEGIONS CHARGE...

...AND MEET HEAD ON IN A SHATTERING CHARGE!



AFTER HOURS OF FURIOUS BATTLE, KING ARTHUR'S MEN ARE FORCED TO RETREAT!



WE ARE SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY... WE SHALL HAVE TO PITCH CAMP AND DEFEND OURSELVES TO THE LAST LIFE!



MY LIEGE'S ARMY MUST HAVE REINFORCEMENTS.. THE KING OF PELLIN-ORE IS NEARBY.. HE WILL HELP US!

JUST THEN GALAHAD LOOKS DOWN FROM A NEARBY HILL...

GALAHAD PROCEEDS SWIFTLY TO THE CASTLE OF PELLINORE!

THE
RE
IT IS!
I MUST
BE
QUICK!



GALAHAD SPEAKS TO KING OF PELLINORE!

KING ARTHUR IS
BESIEGED, MY LORD.
HE MUST HAVE
HELP AT ONCE!

I SHALL
SUMMON MY
ARMY IM-
MEDIATELY!



SOON THE ARMY OF
PELLINORE IS ON ITS
WAY TO ARTHUR'S
AID!

HALT! THERE MAY BE SENTRIES
STATIONED TO WARN THE IN-
VADERS OF OUR APPROACH!

I WILL
GO ON
AHEAD
ALONE!



**GALAHAD'S SUSPICIONS WERE
CORRECT!**



THOSE
SENTRIES
HAVE
SEEN
ME!

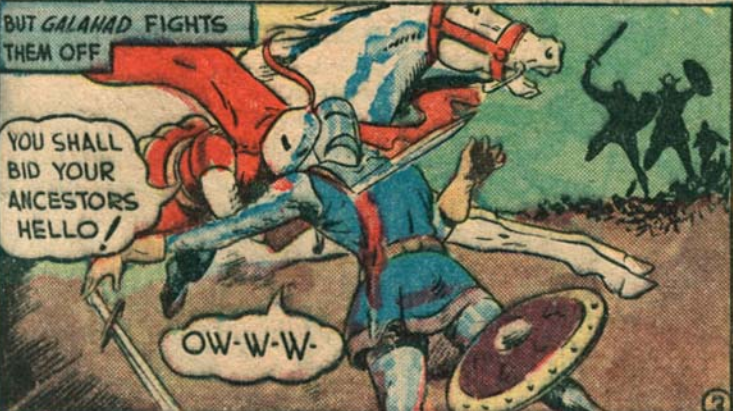


THE SENTRIES ATTACK!

**BUT GALAHAD FIGHTS
THEM OFF**

YOU SHALL
BID YOUR
ANCESTORS
HELLO!

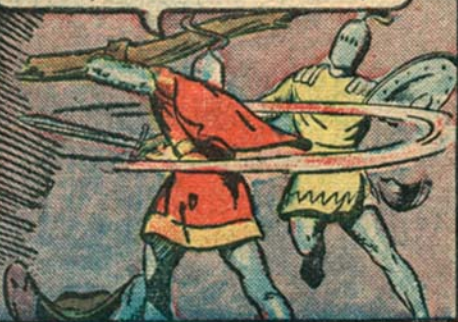
OW-W-W-



ZOUNDS! MY SHIELD IS
GONE!



THIS BROKEN BRANCH WILL
SERVE FOR A SHIELD!



BUT A REMAINING
SENTRY HAS A DIFF-
FERENT PLAN!



AH! PERHAPS I CAN
STEAL HIS HORSE AND
REPORT TO MY KING!

THE SENTRY STEALS
GALAHAD'S MOUNT!...



QUIET, BEAST,
I CAN USE YOU!

DESPERATELY
THE SENTRY
DASHES FOR
CAMP!



MY HORSE! THE
VILLAIN MUST NOT
ESCAPE, OR OUR
CAUSE IS LOST!

GALAHAD TAKES
A SHORT CUT
THRU THE
GREAT FOREST!



I MUST SHED MY
ARMOR, TO CARRY OUT
MY PLAN!... I
NEED SPEED!

GALAHAD HAS NOT LONG
TO WAIT...



AH! HAH! NOW
TO SURPRISE THE
VILLAIN!

.....AS THE SENTRY REACHES
THE CLIFF.....



BY MY
TROTH!
YOU WERE
LONG IN
ARRIVING!



BUT GALAHAD'S HEAD STRIKES
THE UPLIFTED SHIELD OF
THE SENTRY!.....

FOUL CHURL!
AND NOW
YOUR HEART
SHALL TASTE
MY STEEL!





BUT BEFORE THE SWORD CAN STRIKE HOME.....

KING PELLINORE AND HIS LEGIONS ARRIVE!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, GALAHAD?



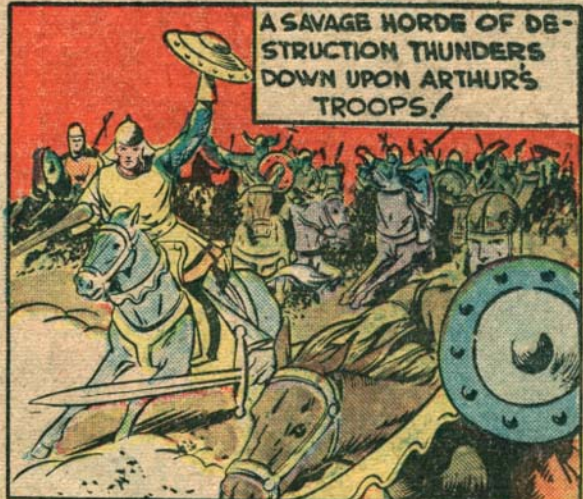
MANY THANKS, KING PELLINORE I LOVE YOU MY LIFE!

MEANWHILE, THE KINGS OF DENMARK AND IRELAND HOLD COUNCIL!



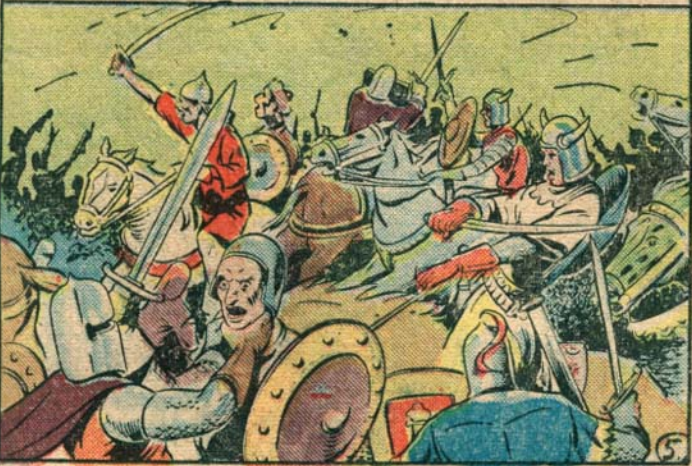
LET US WAIT NO LONGER. OUR TROOPS ARE SUFFICIENTLY RESTED!

A YE! WE STRIKE NOW. DEATH TO THE LEGIONS OF ARTHUR!



A SAVAGE HORDE OF DESTRUCTION THUNDERS DOWN UPON ARTHUR'S TROOPS!

ARTHUR'S KNIGHTS ARE MOWED DOWN LIKE CHAFF, AS THEY VALIANTLY RESIST!



THE INVADING KINGS SCENT VICTORY, AND SAVAGELY SPUR THEIR LEGIONS ON!

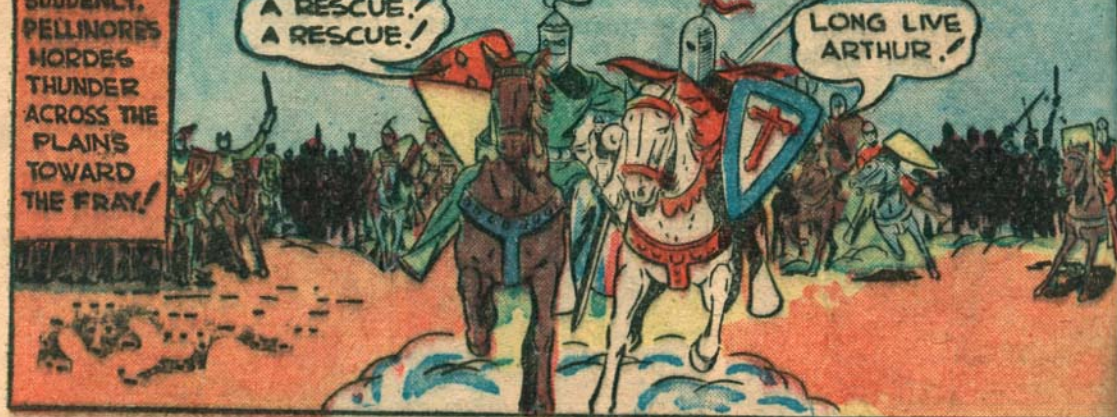


KILL THEM TO THE LAST MAN!

SUDDENLY, PELLINORE'S HORDES THUNDER ACROSS THE PLAINS TOWARD THE FRAY!

A RESCUE!
A RESCUE!

LONG LIVE ARTHUR!



THE INVADERS ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO FIRES.....

DEATH TO THE ENEMY OF KING ARTHUR!



BEFORE THE DANES SURRENDER, ARTHUR'S LIFE IS THREATENED!

AT LEAST THEIR ACCURSED KING SHALL DIE!



THE BATTLE IS WON.... BUT GALAHAD HOVERS ON THE BRINK OF DEATH.....

GALAHAD!.... MOST LOYAL WARRIOR, YOU MUST NOT DIE!



ALTHOUGH VICTORIOUS, THE KNIGHTS MOURN FOR GALAHAD!

PELLINORE, I SHALL TREASURE YOUR FRIENDSHIP FOREVER!

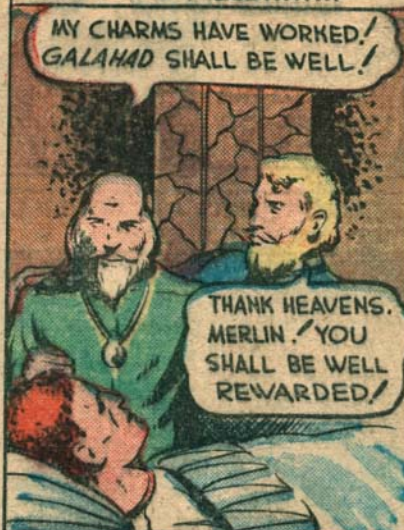
MY REWARD SHALL BE GALAHAD'S RECOVERY!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER IN ARTHUR'S PALACE AT CAMELOT.....

MY CHARMS HAVE WORKED! GALAHAD SHALL BE WELL!

THANK HEAVENS, MERLIN! YOU SHALL BE WELL REWARDED!



MORE ADVENTURES OF GALAHAD IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH COMICS.

BUT GALAHAD SEES HIS KING IN DANGER AND SHIELDS HIM FROM THE DEADLY BLOW!

ARTHUR, BEWARE!
OH!!!

THIS FOR ARTHUR.....



SHANGHAI SHERIDAN

IRVING
NOVICK
AND
JOE BLAIR

YOUNG JACK SHERIDAN, WHOSE FATHER WAS KILLED BY THE INVADERS, HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY WISE AND WEALTHY CHAN SING-TAN, WHO LIVES IN THE HEART OF SHANGHAI. SCHOOL-ED IN THE WAYS OF THE ORIENT, SHERIDAN VOWS NEVER TO REST UNTIL HE HAS DRIVEN THE INVADING HORDES FROM THE LAND OF THE PEACEFUL CHINESE.....



ONE NIGHT, IN THE HOME OF HIS FATHER...

MASTER DESIRE HONORABLE PRESENCE.

THANKS, AH MEE! I'LL BE RIGHT IN!



GREETINGS, FATHER! OH! YOU HAVE A GUEST!

IT IS SO! AND ONE OF WHOM WE HAVE HEARD MANY THINGS!



THE "MOTHER" OF THE GUERILLA FIGHTERS

MADAME CHAO YU-TANG!

OR AS SOME CALL ME, "MA-MA MOSQUITO"!



I BEG YOUR AID, MY SON! IN THE NEAR-BY VILLAGE OF POE-POE I HAVE HIDDEN MY FIGHTERS, BUT WE NEED GUNS AND AMMUNITION!

THIS HUMBLE ONE BEGS LEAVE TO SERVE YOU!



THE WELFARE OF CHINA
REGRETFULLY CAUSES
OUR EARLY
LEAVE!

GOOD NIGHT,
FATHER!



WHERE
DO WE
GO NOW,
MA-MA?
TO A WARE-
HOUSE BY THE
RIVER! IF ALL
IS WELL WE
SHALL FIND
OUR WEAPONS
AWAITING
US!



THEY ARRIVE AT THE WAREHOUSE

BUT I THOUGHT
YOU WANTED
ME TO HELP
YOU GET
THE GUNS!

EXACTLY
SO/ TO
HELP ME GET
THEM TO MY
WARRIORS!



NOW I
BEGIN TO
UNDERSTAND!

TO UNDERSTAND
IS TO STAND
UNDER THE
GATE OF
WISDOM

15 BOXES OF
BOOM-BOOMS/
OOH!



LATER THAT NIGHT

THE
VEGETABLES
WILL CONCEAL
THE AMMUNI-
TION!

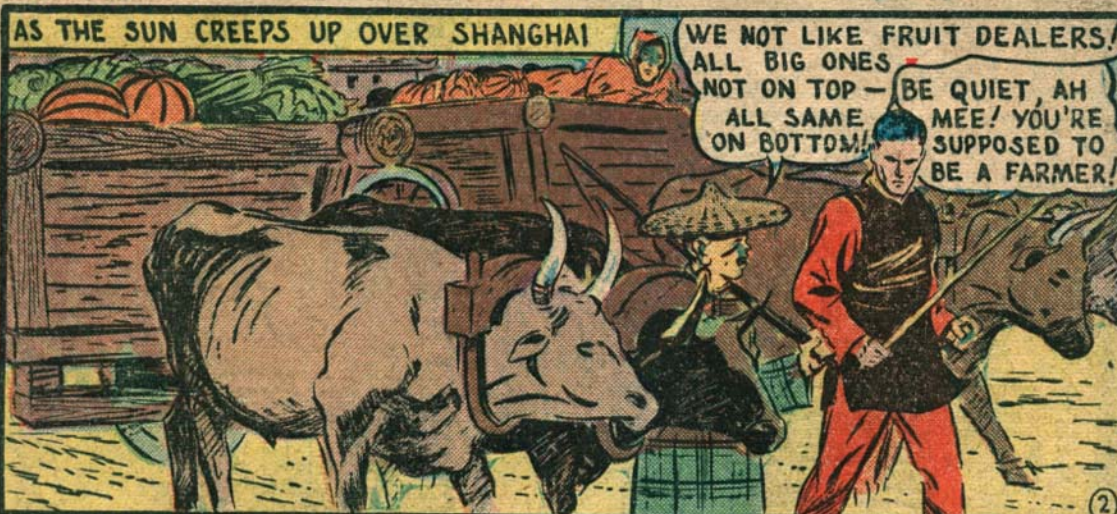
AH MEE SHALL
SOON RETURN WITH
THE OXEN! IN THE
MORNING WE SHALL
BE READY!



AS THE SUN CREEPS UP OVER SHANGHAI

WE NOT LIKE FRUIT DEALERS!
ALL BIG ONES
NOT ON TOP -
ALL SAME
ON BOTTOM!

BE QUIET, AH
MEE! YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO
BE A FARMER!



JUST AS THEY APPROACH THE
OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY



HALT/
IN NAME OF
EMPEROR
DEMAND
INSPECTION!

IS GOOD/
TAKE OUT,
PLEASE!

NO CAN DO! FOR
MELICAN
MISSIONARY
UP-COUNTRY!



THE SENTRY GROWS
SUSPICIOUS



SHOW PASS
PLEASE!

CAN DO!
ME READ!
ME SHOW!

IS PASS FOR FOOD TO MIS-
SIONARY / ONE SO / ME READ.
SMART AS YOU / MMM!
CAN READ?



VELLY
GOOD / SO
SORRY!
GO ON!



IS SOMETHING
FISHY IN
SHANGHAI!
BUT WHAT
IT IS?



IN MID-AFTERNOON THEY REACH THE
VILLAGE OF POE-POE

LOOKS LIKE THE
PLACE IS
DESERTED!

FRUIT! VEGETABLES!
FOOD FOR THE MEN
OF CHINA!



AT MA-MA MOSQUITO'S CALL



...GUERRILLA SHARPSHOOTERS
MAKE THEIR APPEARANCE.



THE VILLAGE OF POE-POE SUDDENLY COMES TO LIFE!



BENEATH THIS FOOD FOR YOUR STOM-
ACHS, YOU WILL FIND FOOD FOR THE
BODIES OF YOUR ENEMIES!



POSTED ON THE NEAR-BY
WHANGPOO RIVER DYKE...
IS SUSPICIOUS LOOKEE
ON RIVER ROAD

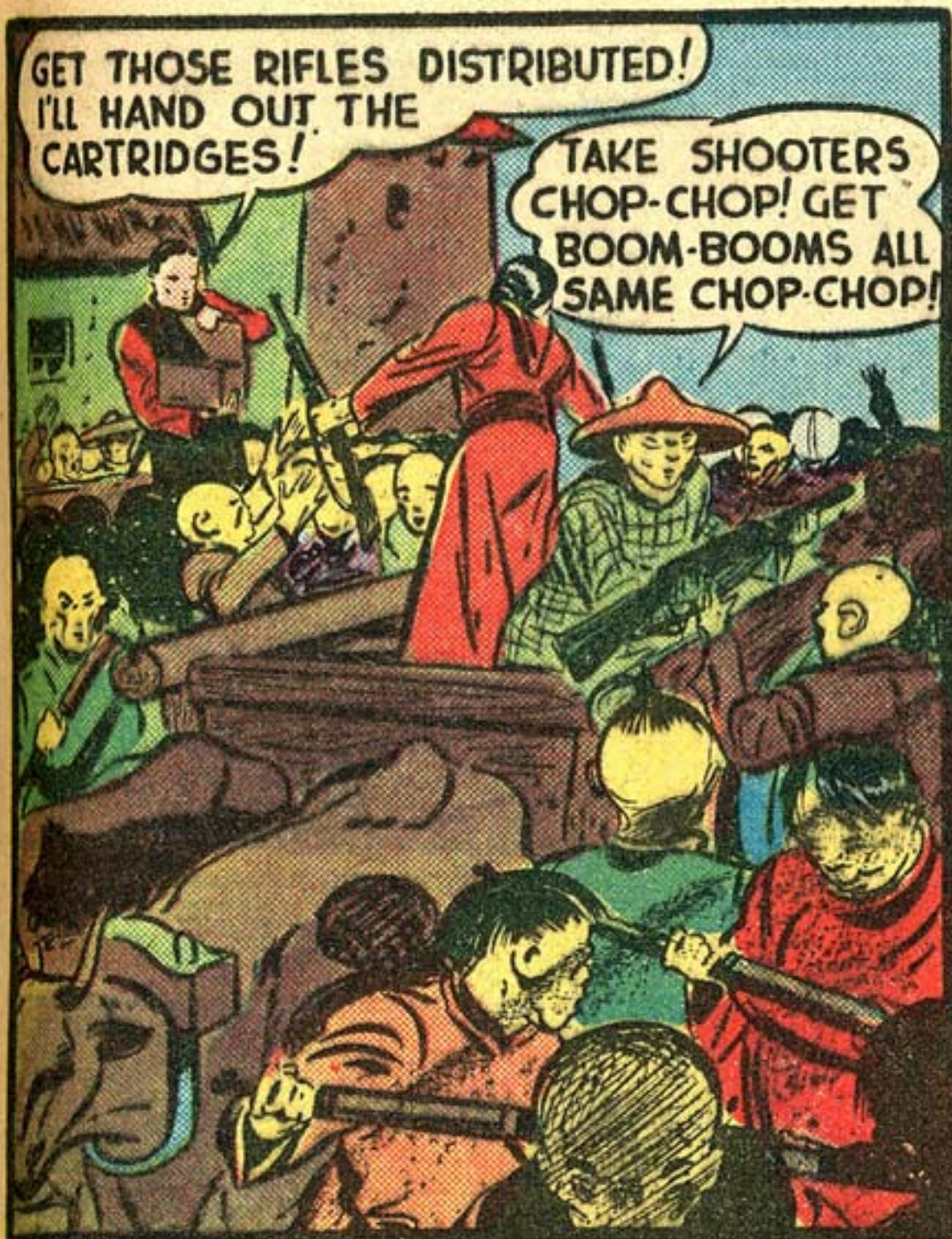


A SENTRY MAKES A STARTLING
DISCOVERY! ENEMY TROOPS!



4. MA-MA MOSQUITO!
ENEMY COME FROM
SHANGHAI-WAY





GET THOSE RIFLES DISTRIBUTED!
I'LL HAND OUT THE
CARTRIDGES!

TAKE SHOOTERS
CHOP-CHOP! GET
BOOM-BOOMS ALL
SAME CHOP-CHOP!



BULLET NO FIT RIFLE!
IS MONKEY-DOODLE
BUSINESS!



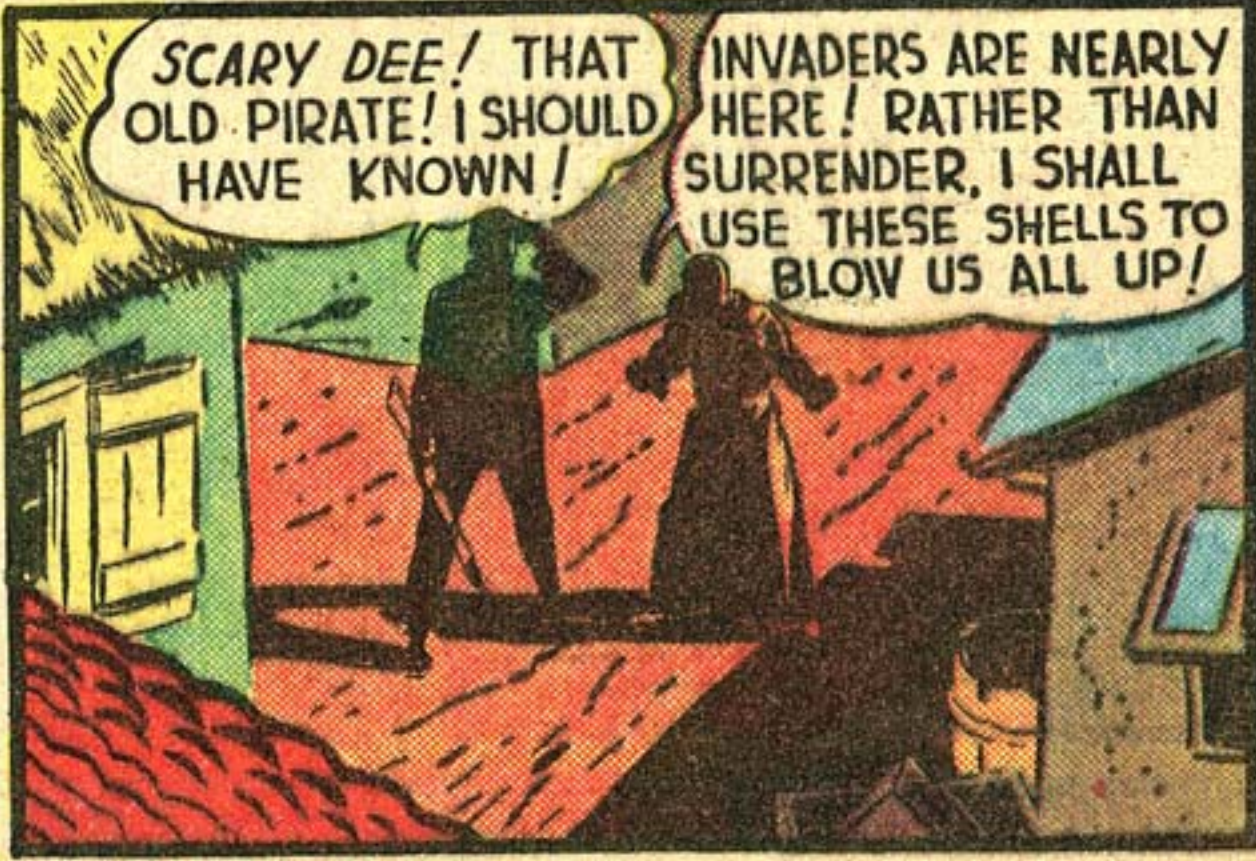
NO FIT!

BULLET TOO
BIGEE! GUN ALL
SAME TOO SMALLEE!



THESE RIFLES ARE .32
CALIBER, BUT THE SHELLS
ARE FOR A .45. WHERE'D
YOU GET THESE THINGS?

FROM A
WHITE TRADER
ONE, SCARY
DEE!



SCARY DEE! THAT
OLD PIRATE! I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN!

INVADERS ARE NEARLY
HERE! RATHER THAN
SURRENDER, I SHALL
USE THESE SHELLS TO
BLOW US ALL UP!



I HAVE A BETTER PLAN! YOU GET
YOUR MEN UP ON THAT HILL!
AH MEE, GRAB ALL THE CARTRIDGES
YOU CAN!

I FAIL TO FOLLOW
YOUR PLAN, BUT
I OBEY!

SOME FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER
THE ENEMY APPROACHES!



I DEMAND YOUR
UNCONDITIONAL
SURRENDER!

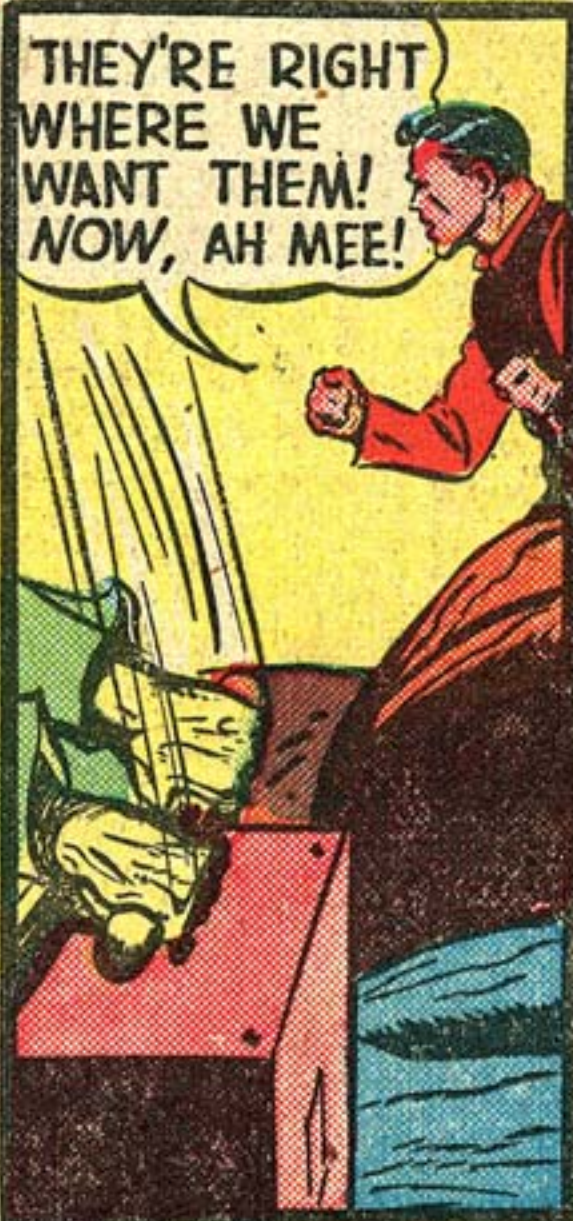
WE'RE
UNARMED!
COME AND
GET US!

AH MEE! THE MOMENT
APPROACHES! WHEN I
GIVE THE SIGNAL...



CAN DO!
IS READY!

THEY'RE RIGHT
WHERE WE
WANT THEM!
NOW, AH MEE!



SHERIDAN AND AH MEE BLOW
UP THE RIVER DYKES!



AND THE FLOOD
WATERS DASH THE
INVADER TROOP
TO THEIR DOOM!



SCARY DEE'S BULLETS
CAME IN HANDY,
AFTER ALL!



INVADERS NICE
AND CLEAN NOW! THEY
ALL WASHED
UP!

THE RIVER HAS
OFTEN CAUSED
OUR PEOPLE UN-
HAPPINESS. BUT
TODAY IT HAS
SAVED OUR LIVES!

GOODBYE, MY
FRIEND! RETURN
TO SHANGHAI AND
CARRY ON YOUR
WORK! I TAKE
MY MEN ONCE
MORE TO THE
HILLS!

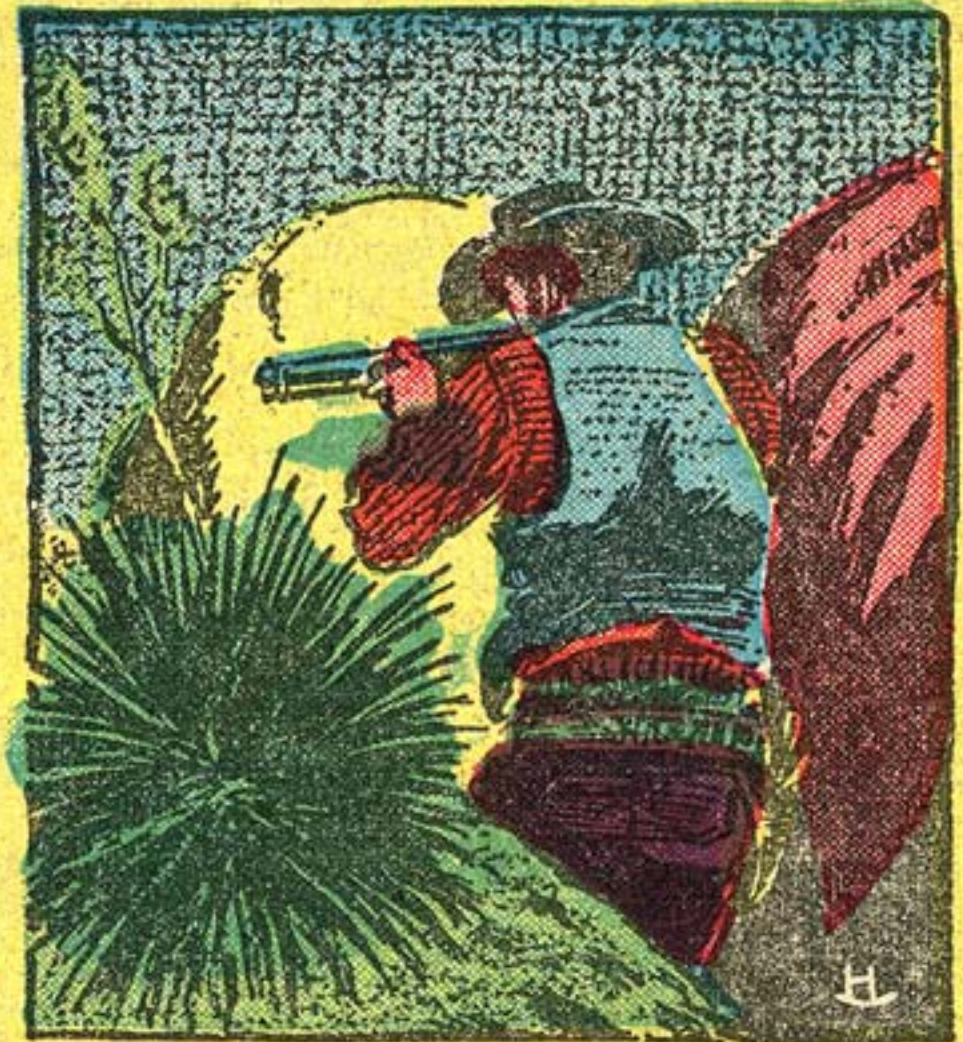
WATCH FOR
THE FURTHER
ADVENTURES
OF
SHANGHAI
SHERIDAN
IN THE NEXT ISSUE
OF

**TOP-NOTCH
COMICS**

LARIAT LAW

by THE TRAIL BOSS

Criminals made mistakes in the old West
... but they never made the same one
twice!



HONEST, gentle reader, those lynchings of horse thieves and others, too numerous to mention, in the early days out West were not exactly what they have been written and pictured. The writer, as a boy, attended a few of those social gatherings known to the good folk as necktie parties. Everyone was quite well-behaved, including the victim or victims.

Personally, I've seen a guy hanging dead or almost and being shot so full of holes, as a swinging target, that he looked like a fly screen, but never without provocation. It could hardly be termed violence on account of the victim being too scared to offer resistance of any appreciable sort. The system had its fine points.

For instance, we never used to lynch folk without, at least, a sort of preliminary. It always took a little time to find a tree that was quite suitable. The accused was always asked if there was anything he had to say or any message to his relatives. There was a firm belief out West that an innocent man is never craven. It was held that an innocent man will say his say if given a chance. If he remained dumb and scared on the brink of eternity, it was taken as an admission of guilt.

We Westerners never attended these lynchings for amusement alone. Even the sheriff never appeared in his official capacity but more as a citizen with the welfare of the community at heart. As society affairs these lynchings were quite informal and

sometimes impromptu, but not often. Early Westerners seldom rushed blindly into an affair of this nature.

As a rule the Westerner believed there was a proper time and place for everything. That is why lynchings were usually quite well-ordered. They were never permitted to take on, exactly, the tone of a barbecue, picnic or rodeo and as for gore—well a calf-skinning contest was usually bloodier, more hurried and less methodical.

We can assure the gentle reader that we went about our Western lynchings with a conscientious determination that proved we appreciated the weight of the matter at hand. Really, we proceeded, usually, with cool deliberation and a grave attention to minor details that, we believe, was quite admirable. Such adroit methods of handling criminals threatening the sanctity of homes in wide open and for the most part unguarded spaces is not to be considered in the same light as law enforcement in well-policed and congested communities. At any rate it was a great saver in the costs of law enforcement.

When a man was punished for crime, in this manner, he remained punished permanently. A habeas corpus writ was as useless to him as a toothpick to a porcupine. The effect was, we might say, salubrious to the community. At least, the victim was in no position to make the same serious mistake a second time.

RANG-A-TANG, THE WONDER DOG, APPEARS
EVERY MONTH IN BLUE RIBBON COMICS

Streak CHANDLER *on mars*

WRITTEN BY —
HARRY SHORTEN

STREAK CHANDLER, VOLA FINLAY, HER FATHER, PROFESSOR FINLAY, AND LURA, OF THE PLANET, JUPITER, HAVE BEEN TAKEN PRISONERS BY QUANTUS, A SPACE PIRATE FROM VENUS. THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO QUANTUS'S EMPIRE, IO, ONE OF THE MOONS OF JUPITER. HOW WILL THEY FARE?

STREAK HAS JUST RESCUED VOLA FROM QUANTUS

NOW WE'VE GOT TO GET LURA AND YOUR FATHER, VOLA!

STREAK! SOMEHOW I DON'T TRUST LURA!

NONSENSE, VOLA! LURA'S OKAY.

LOOK! THERE'S LURA NOW!

I ELUDED MY CAPTORS AS THEY WERE TAKING ME TO THE SLAVE PITS.

WHERE'S FATHER!

HE IS IN THE SCIENCE LABORATORY! I HAVE A PLAN, STREAK. WE CAN RULE IO INSTEAD OF QUANTUS!

NOTHING DOING! WE'RE GOING AFTER THE PROFESSOR!

LURA FLIES INTO A JEALOUS RAGE.

IT IS THE EARTHLING, VOLA, WHO HAS WON HIS AFFECTIONS. I NEED NO ONE TO AID ME IN MY PLANS!

THEY IMMEDIATELY MAKE FOR THE LABORATORY!

THERE'S THE LABORATORY!

THE LABORATORY, IN WHICH QUANTUS' CAPTIVES ARE ALL SCIENTISTS, THE CREATORS OF QUANTUS' EMPIRE!



STREAK ATTACKS ONE OF THE GUARDS



THAT'S ONE DOWN!

STREAK AND VOLA SEARCH FOR PROFESSOR FINLAY'S CAGE.

THIS HAMMER I TOOK FROM THAT GUARD WILL COME IN HANDY... KEEP IN THE SHADOWS, VOLA, OR THE OTHER GUARDS WILL SEE US!



ALL RIGHT, STREAK!

FATHER!

WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THERE IN A SECOND!



OOMPH!
THAT DOES IT!



THE CRASH BRINGS GUARDS RUNNING



BOY! I OUGHT TO GET A CIGAR ON THAT ONE!



STREAK MAKES FOR THE SECOND IONIAN!

HERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOU!

UBBLE GULP



STREAK!! BE CAREFUL!!



THE LAST IONIAN CLOSSES IN ON STREAK.

MAGROO

HEY- ULP!



WITH TERRIFIC BRUTE STRENGTH, THE IONIAN RAISES STREAK ALOFT, AND IS ABOUT TO SMASH HIM TO THE GROUND!



VOLA PICKS UP STREAK'S ICE GUN, DROPPED IN THE STRUGGLE.

HELL KILL STREAK, UNLESS...



VOLA TURNS THE IONIAN INTO AN ICE STATUE!

WOW! ANOTHER SPLIT SECOND, AND I'D HAVE BEEN DOGMEAT!



WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE QUICK, BEFORE QUANTUS HAS THE WHOLE ARMY ON OUR NECKS!



THAT'S THE TAKE-OFF RUNWAY FOR THE SPACE SHIP!

WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT! IT'S NOW OR NEVER!



LURA REMAINS BEHIND!
LET THEM GO! I HAVE
OTHER PLANS!



BEFORE THE ASTONISHED GUARDS
CAN REGAIN THEIR WITS, STREAK
STARTS THE SPACE SHIP INTO
MOTION!



BUT STREAK'S ESCAPE IS
SEEN BY QUANTUS

CURSE THEM! THEY MUST BE
RECAPTURED OR THEY WILL
DISCLOSE MY PLANET. MY
EMPIRE WILL BE DESTROYED!



QUANTUS IMMEDIATELY MAKES
FOR HIS SPACE-SHIP FLEET!

EVERY AVAILABLE MAN MUST
BE SENT OUT! COMB ALL
SPACE IF NECESSARY, BUT
BRING THE EARTHLINGS
BACK!



THE CHASE IS BEGUN



IN STREAK'S SHIP

GOOD HEAVENS! WE'VE LEFT
LURA BEHIND IN OUR HASTE!
WE MUST GO BACK!



BACK
TO
LURA

HA, THE FOOL HAS TAKEN
MOST OF HIS MEN
ALONG / NOW FOR THE
SLAVE PITS! I SHALL
RULE NOW!



THIS WHEEL WILL OPEN THE
DOORS OF THE CHAMBERS
IN THE SLAVE PIT, AND
RELEASE THE SLAVES!



IN THE SLAVE PIT!

LOOK!
THE DOOR'S
OPENING!

IT MUST
BE A
TRICK!



THE LIBERATED SLAVES
OVERPOWER THE FEW
REMAINING GUARDS!



I HAVE FREED YOU! WE CAN
CONQUER QUANTUS AND RULE IO,
IF YOU WILL FOLLOW ME!



QUANTUS SENDS OUT SPACE
FLASHES TO LOCATE
STREAK'S SHIP.

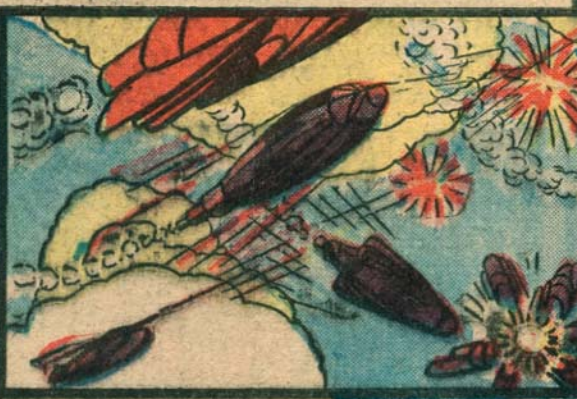


INSIDE QUANTUS' SHIP.

HA, I HAVE LOCATED THE
SPACE SHIP. IT IS PASSING
SATURN. SEND OUT A
MESSAGE TO OUR FLEET
TO CONVERGE ON IT.



QUANTUS' FLEET CONVERGES
UPON STREAK CHANDLER'S
SHIP.



WELL, I GUESS THIS IS THE END. WE CAN'T DODGE THEIR FIRE FOREVER!

OH STREAK!



WE HAVE THEM SURROUNDED. DESTROY THEM!

LOOK MASTER! WE ARE BEING ATTACKED!



A SAVAGE BATTLE ENSUES AS AN APPROACHING FLEET OF SPACE SHIPS OPENS FIRE UPON QUANTUS!



QUANTUS' FLEET IS QUICKLY ROUTED BY THE WITHERING FIRE OF THE NEW COMERS.



HOORAY! WE'RE SAVED AND LOOK! QUANTUS IS RUNNING WITH HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS!

BUT WHO CAN THE OTHER FLEET BE?



I, LURA, COMMAND YOU TO LAND YOUR SHIP IMMEDIATELY UPON SATURN.



STREAK BRINGS HIS SHIP DOWN ON SATURN. FOLLOWED BY LURA'S FLEET



BOY, YOU SURE WERE JOHNNY ON THE SPOT, THAT TIME, LURA! WHAT A RELIEF— BUT HOW DID YOU DO IT?

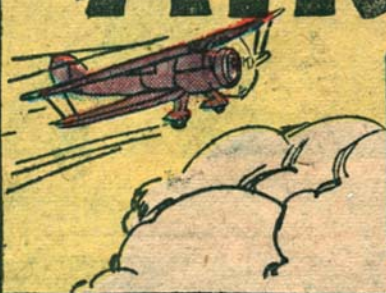


DO NOT BE GRATEFUL, STREAK CHANDLER! YOU SPURNED ME ONCE, AND NOW YOU SHALL REGRET IT. I AM RULER OF IO, AND YOU ARE ALL MY PRISONERS!



WELL! THINGS HAVE CERTAINLY TAKEN A STARTLING TURN. LURA IS NOW IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT, AND APPARENTLY INTENDS TO CRACK THE WHIP OVER HER FORMER ALLIES. READ THE NEXT ISSUE OF TOP-NOTCH COMICS FOR FURTHER STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS!

WINGS JOHNSON OF THE AIR PATROL



WINGS JOHNSON, AMERICAN PILOT NOW SERVING WITH THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, RETURNS TO HIS POST ON THE WESTERN FRONT AFTER FOILING A NAZI ATTEMPT TO SEIZE THE BRITISH DIAMOND MINES. WITH HIS PAL, COCKNEY HENRY HIGGINS, HE REPORTS TO HIS C.O.-

by ED SMALLE and JOE BLAIR

YOU SAY THERE'S A NAZI AIR BASE SOMEWHERE IN THIS SECTOR?

THAT'S RIGHT! OUR PATROLS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED AND ROUTED SEVERAL TIMES LATELY!

BLAWST ME SOUL!

WHAT I WANT TO DO IS BLAST *THEIR* SOULS! I CAN'T SEND BOMBERS ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE BUT----

IF YOU FELLOWS CAN LOCATE THEIR SECRET HIDE-OUT---



WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND, MAJOR!

GOOD! WE'VE GOT TO FIND AND DESTROY THAT BASE!

LET'S BE OFF, WINGSIE!



LATER-OVER ENEMY TERRITORY----

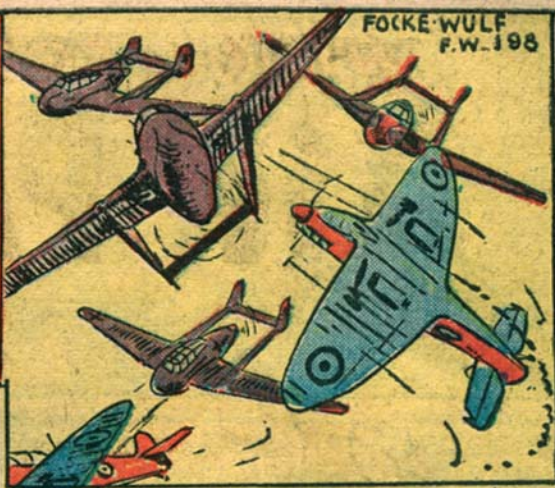


VICKERS SPITFIRE

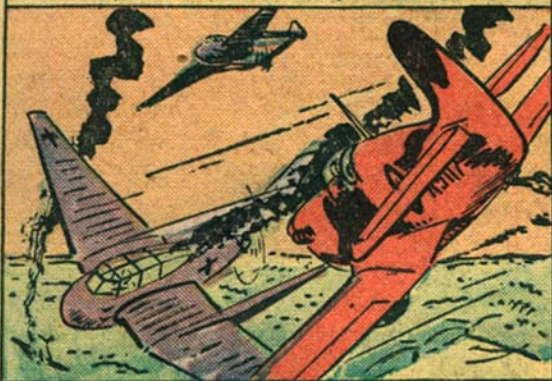


HENRY! NAZIS
ABOVE US!
WE'LL HAVE TO
FIGHT!

WINGS
GOES
INTO A
HALF-
LOOP
AND
CLIPS
THE
FLIGHT
LEADER



THEN, DIVING AND BANKING, WINGS
DISPOSES OF A SECOND RAIDER!



WOW!
WHAT LUCK!
THERE'S THEIR
CAMOUFLAGED
AIR BASE!



BUT BUSINESS
BEFORE MONKEY
BUSINESS! HEY,
WHERE DID HENRY
GO?



HIGGINS' PLANE HAS DISAPPEARED!

GOSH! I HAVEN'T
ENOUGH GAS LEFT
TO LOOK FOR HENRY
NOW, BUT I'LL BE BACK!



BACK
AT HIS
OWN
AIR-
DROME!

TOO BAD ABOUT
HIGGINS, BUT
YOU GOT THE
INFORMATION?

YES, SIR!
I GOT IT!



GOOD! I'LL
HAVE THE
BOMBERS GO
OVER TONIGHT!

HOLD THEM UP
'TIL I HAVE A
CHANCE TO GO
BACK FOR HIGGINS.
PLEASE!



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'S STILL ALIVE?

I'VE A HUNCH HE'S ALRIGHT. GIVE ME JUST --



SORRY, JOHNSON, BUT I HAVE ORDERS TO DESTROY THAT BASE! NOW IF YOU'LL GIVE ME THE POSITION!



COME, COME, MAN! THE POSITION!

SQUARE 68, MARK 10!

WINGS GIVES THE C.O. A FALSE POSITION!



MEANWHILE, AT SQUARE 86, MARK 10!

BLIGH ME! H'I'M STILL IN ONE PIECE, ANYWAY! WAIT H'A BIT! WOT'S THAT?



ORK! THEY'RE AFTER ME ALREADY!

HE CAME DOWN NEAR HERE! SEARCH DER BUSHES!



HENRY ESCAPES HIS PURSUERS!!

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! WELL, MIGHT AS WELL MAKE MESELF COMFY FOR TH' NIGHT! MAYBE IN TH'MORNIN'...



BACK AT THE R.A.F. FIELD

IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, IT'LL BE THE FIRING SQUAD FOR ME!



HAWKER HENLEY



ANNUDER ENGLISHER!

GET HIM!

'URRY UP, WINGSIE, H'I CAWNT HOLD EM ORF THE WHOLE BLOOMIN' DAY!



OW! H'I'M 'IT!

WINGS ROARS ACROSS THE FIELD ...

OH, OH! THEY GOT HENRY!



THEN PANCAKES QUICKLY!

HENRY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

WELL, H'I'M NOT DEAD YET!



THANK HEAVENS!

DONT THANK 'EAVENS! THANK THE BLOKE WOT TAUGHT THEM MOPES 'OW TO SHOOT!



WE'VE GOT TO OVERTAKE THE BOMBERS AND SET THEM STRAIGHT!

H'I CAN MAKE H'IT, WINGSIE! LET'S GO!



A HALF HOUR LATER ...

THERE THEY ARE!



MAJOR HARDY!
MAJOR HARDY!
JOHNSON
CALLING!



A SLIGHT
ERROR IN
POSITION I
GAVE YOU!
IT'S SQUARE
86, NOT 68!



CORRECTION,
EH? WHO'S
THAT IN YOUR
PLANE WITH
YOU?

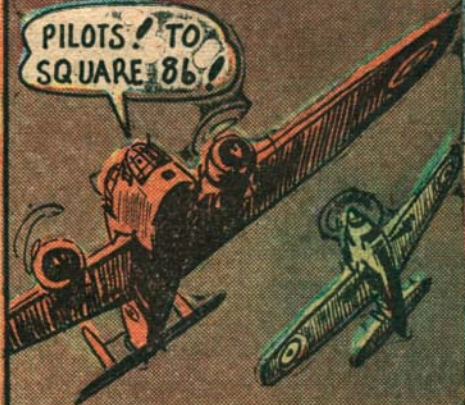


HIGGINS, SIR! HE
JUST FLEW IN THE
WINDOW, I GUESS!

YOUR ERROR IS
UNDERSTANDABLE!
CORRECTION NOTED!



PILOTS! TO
SQUARE 86!



LATER, AT A FIELD HOSPITAL.

WELL, HENRY,
THE NAZI
AIR BASE
HAS BEEN
WIPED
OUT!

H'I WISH YA
HADN'T BEEN
SO ASTY, MAJOR.
H'I LEFT ME
BLAWSTED
SHEEPSKIN
JACKET BACK
THERE. H'IT
WAS TH' H'ONLY
ONE WOT EVER
FIT ME!



WINGS JOHNSON FIGHTS ON A
NEW FRONT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
TOP NOTCH COMICS

DICK STORM

IN INDIA

DICK STORM HAS RESCUED MARGIE CONWAY, A BEAUTIFUL AMERICAN, FROM A BAND OF CHINESE PIRATES. BUT THE PIRATES ARE STILL IN HOT PURSUIT. DICK IS HAMPERED IN HIS EFFORTS TO ESCAPE BY A COWARDLY WHITE MAN, JESSUPS, WHO PROFFERS TO BE MARGIE'S BOYHOOD SWEET-HEART!



BY MESSIN AND SHORTEN



WE'VE LOST THEM!

DON'T RUN SO FAST! I'M NEARLY EXHAUSTED ALREADY!

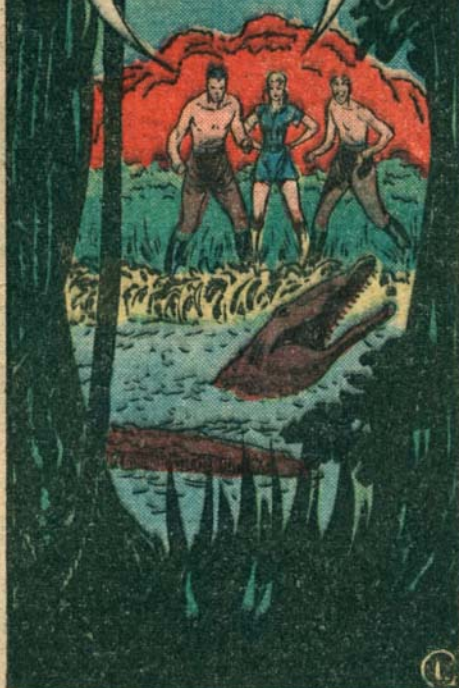


WE'LL FOLLOW THIS TRAIL!



IF WE CAN CROSS THIS STREAM, WE'LL ESCAPE!

BUT HOW? THE STREAM IS FULL OF CROCODILES!



YOU, JESSUPS, WILL BUILD A RAFT!
I'LL GO BACK AND TRY TO DELAY THOSE
PIRATES UNTIL YOU GET IT FINISHED!



I HAVE AN IDEA! I RE-
MEMBER SEEING PLENTY
OF HANGING VINES
NEAR THE
BEGINNING OF
THIS TRAIL!



THIS
LOG WILL
DO IT!



DICK
REACHES
THE VINES!

THERE! NOW I'LL
JUST PULL IT
BACK AND WAIT
FOR AH MING
AND HIS
BUDDIES!



THE CHINESE RIVER PIRATE AND HIS
COHORTS SOON APPEAR!

HULLY! MELICANS
NO CAN GO
FAR!



HERE THEY COME!
LET 'ER RIP!



WOW! DID
I MAKE A HIT
WITH THOSE
GUYS!



THE SUDDEN ATTACK SENDS THE
PIRATES SCUTTLING FOR COVER!

COME, MEN! IS AMELICAN TLUCK!
KETCHUM SWINE. SLITUM
THLOAT!

AFTER A
LONG
DELAY--

THAT
HELD THEM
UP LONG ENOUGH!
JESSUPS SHOULD
BE FINISHED BY
NOW!

HURRY, DICK!
I'VE BEEN KEEPING
A LOOKOUT WHILE
JESSUPS BUILT THE RAFT!

IT'S DONE!
AND A
GOOD
JOB!

YOU....YOU FATHEAD! THAT'S
IRONWOOD YOU'VE BUILT
THE RAFT WITH! WE'D
SINK BEFORE WE GOT
HALF-WAY
ACROSS!

BUT....
BUT....

WE'RE TRAPPED! WE'LL
HAVE TO FIGHT IT
OUT... UP IN
THIS TREE,
QUICK!

WE'LL NEVER
ESCAPE! WE'LL
ALL BE KILLED!

SHUT UP!
HERE THEY
COME!

SEE! TIS RAFT!
MELICANS SOME-
WHERE NEARBY!

DICK LEAPS!

COME ON,
JESSUPS!

JESSUPS!
HELP
DICK!

ER...YES...
MY FOOT'S
CAUGHT!

KILL
HIM!

ME TRY
TO, BUT
HIM NO
LET!

DICK PUTS UP A HEROIC RESISTANCE,
BUT THE ODDS ARE
TOO GREAT!

HELP! I'M
SLIPPING!

SO YOU'RE
SHOWING SOME
SPUNK AT LAST!

MEANWHILE.... A CANNIBAL HAS
BEEN WATCHING WITH KEEN
INTEREST!

DICK AND JESSUPS ARE AT LAST OVERPOWERED!



NOT KILL THEM YET! MUST FIND GIRL!

QUICK, WHITE SWINE! WHERE GIRL, OR SLITTUM THLOAT!



SHE'S LOST IN THE JUNGLE!



NOT WASTE MORE TIME. THROW THEM TO THE CROCODILES!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE! DICK! HELP!



UGGLE GLUMP!

AMMU PMGUA!

IS CANNIBALS! MUST FLEE!

THE RAFT IS ONLY CHANCE!



THE PIRATES MAKE OFF WITH THE RAFT, UNAWARE OF THEIR DANGER!

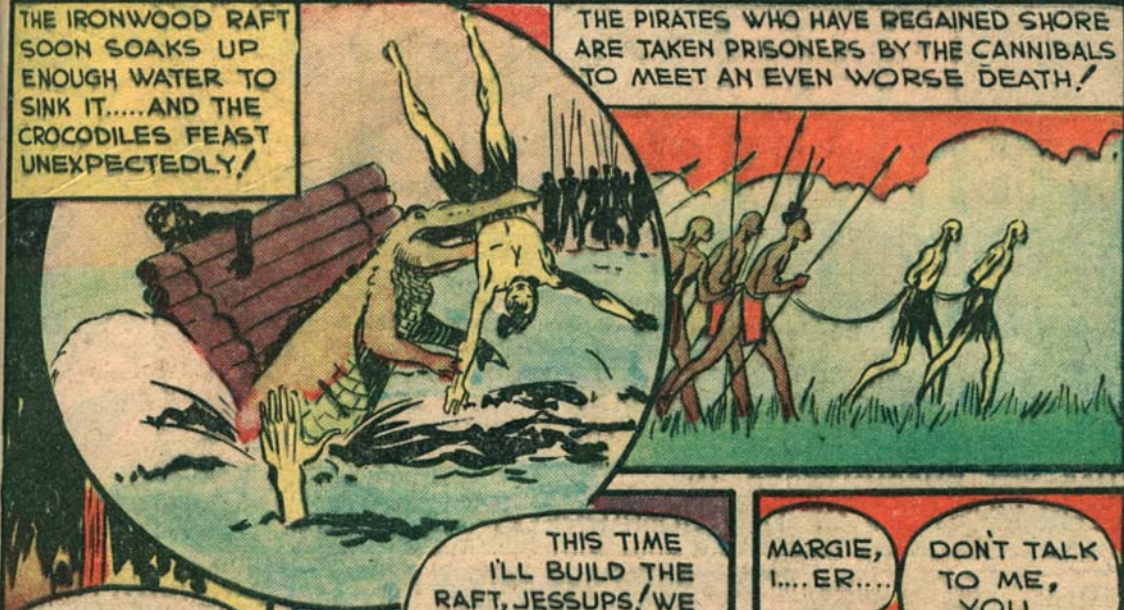
DICK AND JESSUPS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION TO CLIMB BACK INTO HIDING!

STEP ON IT..... OR THEY'LL BE PICKING US OUT OF THEIR TEETH AFTER SUPPER!



THE IRONWOOD RAFT SOON SOAKS UP ENOUGH WATER TO SINK IT.....AND THE CROCODILES FEAST UNEXPECTEDLY!

THE PIRATES WHO HAVE REGAINED SHORE ARE TAKEN PRISONERS BY THE CANNIBALS TO MEET AN EVEN WORSE DEATH!



THEY'RE ALL GONE, NOW! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

THIS TIME I'LL BUILD THE RAFT, JESSUPS! WE WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!

MARGIE, I...ER...

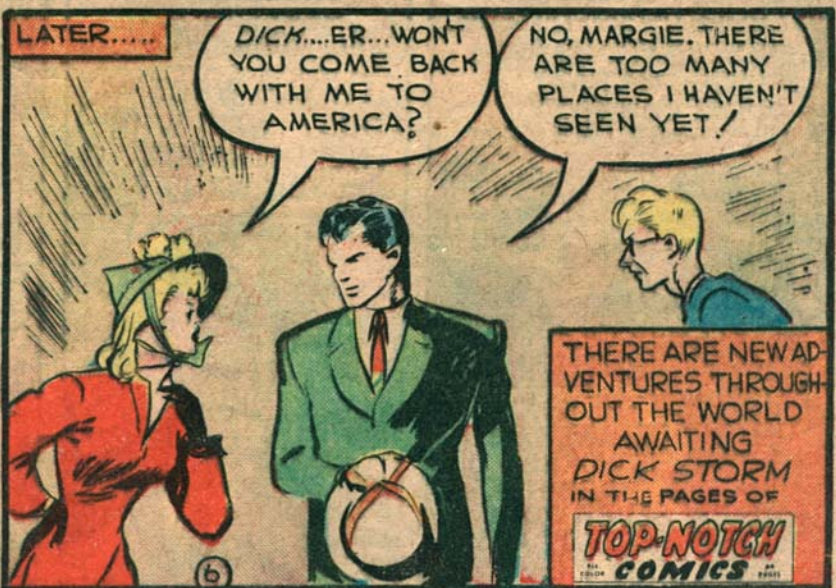
DON'T TALK TO ME, YOU COWARD!



LATER.....

DICK...ER...WONT YOU COME BACK WITH ME TO AMERICA?

NO, MARGIE. THERE ARE TOO MANY PLACES I HAVEN'T SEEN YET!



THERE ARE NEW ADVENTURES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AWAITING DICK STORM IN THE PAGES OF

TOP-NOTCH
COMICS

BOB PHANTOM

SCOURGE OF THE UNDERWORLD

BOB PHANTOM, GREATEST CRIME BUSTER OF THE CENTURY, NOW PITS HIS WITS AND DARING AGAINST THE MOST GRISLY GANG OF KILLERS HE HAS YET ENCOUNTERED IN

THE MYSTERY OF THE KIDNAPPED POLICEMEN!



ONE NIGHT, A POLICEMAN PATROLING HIS BEAT IS SUDDENLY ATTACKED!

GOT HIM!



QUICK! GET HIM INTO THE CAR!

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE BANDITS CONTINUE THEIR STRANGE ASSAULT UPON THE POLICE!



IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS

THESE SNATCHES ARE DRIVING ME CRAZY! WHAT CAN THEY WANT WITH POLICEMEN?



THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT IS WORKED UP ABOUT IT. SEVEN GONE ALREADY, ANYBODY MIGHT BE NEXT!

SUDDENLY, THE PHONE RINGS.

HELLO, WHO'S THIS? WALT WHITNEY! WHADDA YOU WANT?



WALT WHITNEY BROADWAY REPORTER

SAY CHIEF! YOU'RE A BIGGER FATHEAD THAN I THOUGHT! THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON THAT ANYBODY WOULD WANT COPS! READ MY COLUMN TOMORROW AND FIND OUT!



NEXT DAY A STARTLING ITEM IS READ IN WHITNEY'S COLUMN.

WHITNEY SAYS THOSE COPS ARE PROBABLY BEIN' SNATCHED FOR THEIR UNIFORMS.



THIS WHITNEY'S TOO SMART. HE'S LIABLE TO GUM UP THE WORKS!



DON'T WORRY BOSS! WE KNOW WHAT TO DO!!

LATER, WHITNEY LEAVES HIS OFFICE



WOW! MY STORY SURE STEAMED UP THE POLICE..

SUDDENLY...



THOUGHT YOU COULD GET AWAY, HUH!

HEY.. OW!



WHAT'S UP?

THIS GUY'S A CROOK, I'M TAKING HIM IN!



HAW, HAW! SNOOP'S COMIN' ROUND! HOW DO YOU LIKE MY PRIVATE POLICE FORCE, WHITNEY?

WH... WHAT HAPPENED?



YOU WERE! RIGHT. MY MOB SNATCHED THOSE COPS FOR THEIR UNIFORMS.

BUT... WHAT'S THE IDEA?



WE'RE GOING TO STAGE THE BIGGEST HOLD-UP IN THE HISTORY OF THIS CITY. THE NATIONAL BANK. MY MEN ARE GOING TO BE ON PATROL DUTY INSTEAD OF REGULAR COPS. NEAT, HUH!

YOU CANT GET AWAY WITH IT!

WHITNEY IS TAKEN INTO THE CELLAR!



SAY YOUR PRAYERS, REPORTER! WE'RE GOING TO CEMENT YOU UP IN THAT WALL, LIKE WE DID THE KIDNAPPED COPS!

WHITNEY IS SEALED IN THE WALL.



WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM!
THEY'LL NEVER FIND ANY OF THOSE COPS EITHER!

THE GANGSTERS SET OUT FOR THE NATIONAL BANK.



OKAY, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO! GET GOIN'!



THESE ROPES ARE A LITTLE LOOSE. IF ONLY....

LET'S GO! THIS PATROL WAGON LOOKS LIKE THE REAL THING, I'M TAKING NO CHANCES OF A SLIP-UP!



THE KILLERS OVERPOWER THE REAL POLICE PATROLLING THE AREA AROUND THE NATIONAL BANK!!



THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM. YOU TAKE HIS PLACE, SPIKE!

THE BANK ROBBERY BEGINS.



I GOT IT, DROOPY! SHE'S OPEN NOW!

INSIDE THE BANK



IT'S THE WATCHMAN! GIVE IT TO HIM!

NATIONAL BANK

THE GANGSTERS PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO THE HUGE VAULT.

OKAY! PLANT THE JUICE!

IT'S ALL SET!!

A TREMENDOUS BLAST ENSUES WHICH IS HEARD FOR BLOCKS AROUND!

BOOM

THE FAKE POLICE ARRIVE!

(GET GOIN', YOU. EVERYTHING IS TAKEN CARE OF!

I'LL GO INSIDE AND GET THEM!

ME TOO!

IT'S WONDERFUL HOW EFFICIENT THE POLICE ARE!

DON'T SHOOT! WE GIVE UP!

THERE'S THE PATROL WAGON, - MOVE!!

WHAT A HAUL! THERE'S A HUNDRED GRAND HERE!

A RUSH OF WIND, SWIRLING SMOKE AND BOB PHANTOM APPEARS!

GOIN' MY WAY!

SWEET DREAMS!

THIS CAR AIN'T ROLLING! WHAT'S THE IDEA?



HERE'S THE IDEA!
IT'S BOB PHANTOM!



KILL HIM!



OH, SO THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL!

(WELL, I CAN GET ROUGH, TOO!)



BOB DEALS OUT A TERRIFIC BEATING TO THE KILLERS



(TAKE THAT, YOU RAT!)



SUDDENLY, BOB PHANTOM TRIPS!



NOW, BOB PHANTOM, YOU GET YOURS!



GUESS AGAIN



THE BULLETS GO WILD, AND FIND THEIR MARK IN THE GANG LEADER!!



BOB PHANTOM SOON SUBDUES THE KILLERS. LOOKS LIKE YOUR LEADER IS DEAD! TOO BAD! HE WENT TOO EASY!

DON'T HIT ME AGAIN!



AGAIN THE SWIRLING SMOKE HERALDING BOB PHANTOM! THIS TIME IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS!

HEY! WHAT NOW!

TAKE IT EASY, CHIEF! THE COP KIDNAPPERS ARE OUTSIDE!



BOB PHANTOM MAKES A HURRIED DEPARTURE!

HE... HE'S GONE!

IT'S UNCANNY!



THE POLICE HURRY OUTSIDE

IT'S THE COP KIDNAPPERS ALLRIGHT!

I'LL BE.. PHONEY.. COPS..



NEXT DAY THE CHIEF OF POLICE SUMMONS WHITNEY TO HIS OFFICE

I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT YOU WERE RIGHT. THE CROOKS CONFESSED TO KIDNAPPING THE COPS.



WE FOUND THE DEAD BODIES CEMENTED IN THE WALL OF A CELLAR. FUNNY THING, ONE WAS EMPTY, LIKE SOMEBODY HAD ESCAPED!

I WONDER WHO IT COULD HAVE BEEN?

MORE ADVENTURES OF BOB PHANTOM IN NEXT MONTH'S

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NEWSSTAND //

KARDAK

THE MYSTIC
MAGICIAN

BY
BERNIE KLEIN
&
H. SHORTEN

KARDAK, LORNA, AND BALTHAR, WHO HAS BECOME KARDAK'S SERVANT, ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE LAND OF THE MASTER BRAHMIN'S VIA THE MAGIC CARPET... BUT IN ORDER TO REACH IT, THEY MUST PASS MANY DEADLY OBSTACLES.....

IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE
BEEN ON THIS
CARPET FOR DAYS!

SUDDENLY... THE MAGIC
CARPET BUCKLES UNDER
KARDAK AND LORNA...

MASTER!
...WATCH
OUT!

OH!

HELP!

I'VE GOT
TO DO SOME-
THING FAST!

KARDAK USES HIS
MAGIC TO CREATE
A RAINBOW-LIKE
SLIDING-POND...

GOOD THING WE
DIDN'T LAND IN A POT
OF GOLD! THAT
WOULD BE KIND
OF HARD!

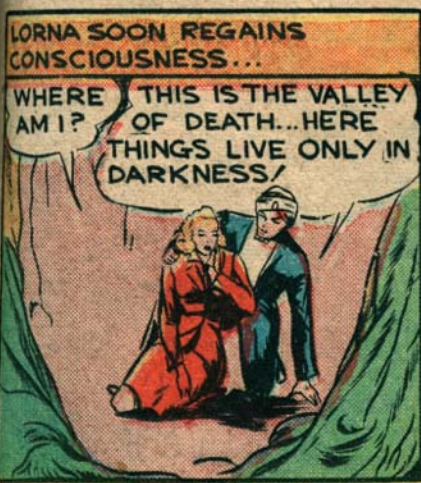




I'LL BE READY TO GRAB LORNA WHEN THAT PLANT TANGLES WITH MY SHADOW!



IT WORKED!



LORNA SOON REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...

WHERE AM I? THIS IS THE VALLEY OF DEATH... HERE THINGS LIVE ONLY IN DARKNESS!



AFTER RESUMING THEIR WALK ACROSS THE VALLEY...

THAT HOUSE LOOKS LIKE A GIANT COFFIN...

GRUESOME, ISN'T IT?



WE'LL HAVE TO GO INSIDE, IF WE EVER WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS VALLEY...



THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF SMELL.. LIKE DEATH!

YES, I SMELL IT ALSO!



SUDDENLY.. THE FLOOR GIVES WAY BENEATH THEIR FEET!

HELP!



SUDDENLY FROM THE DARKNESS...

I AM THE MASTER OF THE VALLEY OF DEATH! NO MORTAL MAY TRESPASS MY DOMAINS AND LEAVE ALIVE!



I SHALL SUMMON MY SLAVES BY PLUNGING THIS PLACE INTO DARKNESS!



WE'VE GOT TO RUN FOR IT, LORNA!

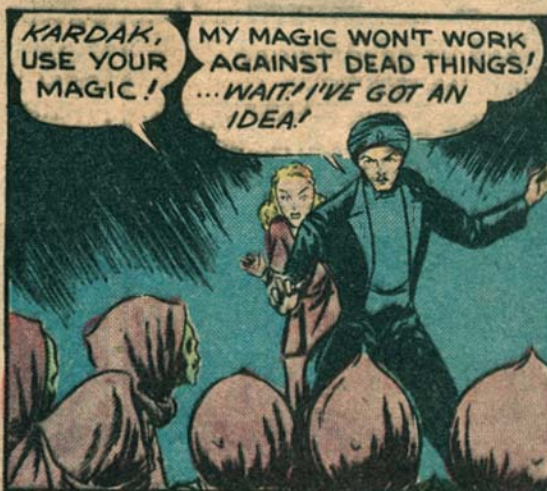
BUT BEFORE THEY CAN FLEE...

GREAT CAESAR! THOSE THINGS ARE ALL DEAD!



KARDAK, USE YOUR MAGIC!

MY MAGIC WON'T WORK AGAINST DEAD THINGS! ...WAIT! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



KARDAK PROTECTS HIMSELF AND LORNA WITH A CIRCLE OF FLAME...

THAT DID IT, LORNA! THEY'RE RUNNING FROM THE LIGHT!



COME ON, LORNA, THEY WON'T TOUCH US NOW!



KARDAK AND LORNA
COME FLUSH AGAINST
A SEEMINGLY INSUR-
MOUNTABLE BARRIER...



LOOK, KARDAK!
WHAT WILL
WE DO
NOW?

THERE
DOESN'T SEEM
TO BE ANY
OTHER WAY OUT!

JUST THEN...!



HALLOO!
MASTER!
BALTHAR
UP HERE!



LOOK!
ME CAT-
CHUM SOME-
THING TO EAT!

GOOD OLD
BALTHAR!



THIS MAGIC TURBAN
MAKE GOOD ROPE.
CAN MAKE LONG
OR SHORT!

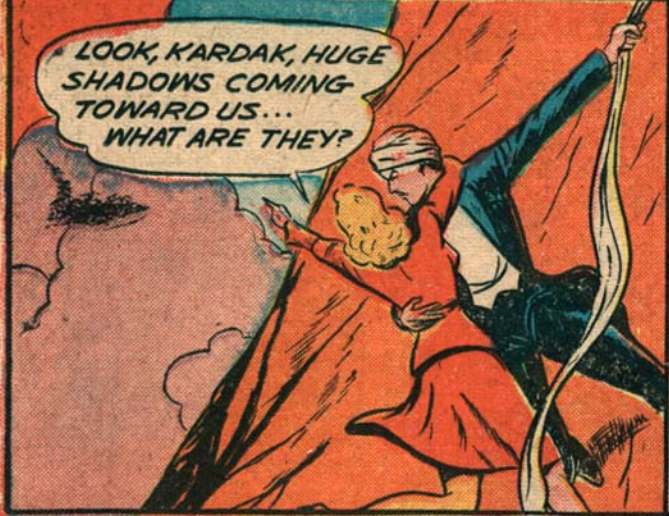


WELL, THIS
SEEMS TO BE
THE ONLY
ELEVATOR
RUNNING!



HO, HO! THIS ALMOST
MUCH FUN LIKE
EATING!

BALTHAR'S AMAZING STRENGTH IS
BROUGHT INTO PLAY AND HOISTS
THE TWO UPWARDS!



LOOK, KARDAK, HUGE SHADOWS COMING TOWARD US... WHAT ARE THEY?



FANTASTIC VULTURE-BATS SENT BY THE MASTER OF THE SHROUDS TO INTERCEPT THEM!

THESE THINGS WILL TEAR US TO PIECES, UNLESS...

KARDAK SUMMONS A FLOCK OF DUCKS FROM THIN AIR!



I HOPE THESE BIRDS AREN'T TOO STUBBORN!

THE VULTURES ARE DECEIVED FROM THEIR PREY BY THE DUCKS...



PULL FAST, BALTHAR, BEFORE THEY TRY SOMETHING ELSE!

WHEW! I WOULDN'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN... BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU BALTHAR?



MAGIC TURBAN BRING ME TO PLACE WHERE CAN LEAVE VALLEY...



HERE EXIT...

THANK HEAVEN!



MUST CLIMB UM MOUNTAIN TO GET TO NEXT OBSTACLE... MAGIC CARPET NO TAKE US THERE!

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT GETTING TO THE LAND OF THE MASTER BRAHMIN IS GOING TO BE A TOUGH JOB!

FOLLOW KARDAK'S ADVENTURES INTO THE LAND OF TRANSPARENT MEN... IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF - TOP-NOTCH COMICS.

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